

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 14th August 2019 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 and Cllr. David Priestley.

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

In Attendance: SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney

Members of the Public: There were five members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Carole Charman, SBC Cllr. Andrew Bowles and PCSO Ryan Atherton.

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 two and three quarter hours.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 15th May and the Public Meeting held on 22nd May 2019 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. D. Priestley

They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

- The proposed village walk has yet to take place.
- The waste bin in the recreation ground has been replaced with a lidded one.
- The Cricket Club Lease has been signed and is complete.
- Councillors thanked Cllr. Penny Twaites for hosting a very enjoyable evening where outgoing councillors were thanked and new councillors welcomed.

5. PCSO Report

PCSO Ryan emailed a report to the clerk. The report stated that thankfully there had been few reported incidents in the village: a couple of criminal damage to vehicles and a burglary to a stable. A summer burglary initiative is currently running and there has been an increase in shed/garage break-ins elsewhere so the public are advised to secure property appropriately.

Chair, Cllr. Clarke, informed the meeting that residents had reported instances of young people coming to the village in cars and being a nuisance by leaving litter and making a noise late at night in the area of the recreation ground,

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Silver Street and Travers Gardens. Cllr. Bonney advised councillors to enlist the support of the PCSO.

Cllr. Bonney also advised that if any needles were found to report it to SBC and they would be collected immediately.

Speeding cars were reported in Bexon Lane at night. This could be related to the youths visiting the village.

6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public

Neighbourhood Watch

The lead coordinator of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) informed the meeting a year ago that he wished to resign, but was disappointed that a replacement had not been found. The Chair assured him that the PC had made enquiries but that no one had volunteered their services. A renewed NHW campaign is currently being promoted by the police service in Sittingbourne and the PC is to continue to look for a replacement lead coordinator.

Bredgar Cricket Club Pavilion

Peter Moore and Richard Ingram thanked the PC for renewing the Lease and hoped to continue the wonderful relationship that has flourished over the previous 30 years. The Cricket Club is hoping to build a new pavilion in the recreation ground and have made contacts with a view to creating a business plan, which will include designs and development of the club to promote youth development, women's softball and involvement in schools. They will then tender for quotes to build the pavilion.

The PC is keen to support the Cricket Club with the project.

Cllr Bonney

- Cllr. Bonney advised the Cricket Club of various sources of possible funding for the new pavilion.
- There is also scope for funding for parish projects from the Members' Grant.
- The West Downs Facebook page has useful information on various topics.

7. Authorisation of Accounts

Payments

01/05/19	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
08/05/19	KCC	Speed Surveys	£379.50
08/05/19	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	£198.00
15/05/19	Bredgar School	Donation	£160.00
20/05/19	BHIB	Insurance	£542.40
29/05/19	Cllr. Hickman	Plants	£71.13
29/05/19	Cllr. Clarke	Domain Renewal	£11.99
29/05/19	T. Hudson	Honorarium	£418.50
29/05/19	SBC	Brown Bin	£37.00
01/06/19	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
04/06/19	Ask A Gardener	Village Maintenance	£132.00
13/06/19	KCC	Grounds Maintenance	£226.92
01/07/19	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00

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03/07/19	Gullands Solicitor	Rec Grd Lease	£1206.00
03/07/19	Bredgar Farmshop	Planters	£342.00
03/07/19	KALC	Subscription	£288.46
03/07/19	Ask A Gardener	V. Maintenance	£132.00
<u>Receipts</u>			
24/04/19	SBC	Precept	£5060.50
24/06/19	B. Cricket Club	Rent	£43.75

There were no queries on the accounts as shown. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Ingram.

8. Financial Review

The Financial Review was circulated by email prior to the meeting. There were no queries.

Cemetery Fees

It is usual for the cemetery fees to be raised annually in line with SBC fees.

The clerk circulated the revised fees by email prior to the meeting.

Councillors had no objections to the rise. Proposed by Cllr. Ingram, seconded by Cllr. Priestley.

The costs of a plot in Bredgar cemetery are decided by the Parish Councillors.

Councillors agreed to raise the costs as follows:

Class A from £190 to **£200**

Class B from £130 to **£150**

Non-resident at time of purchase from £410 to **£425**

The new rates will take effect immediately. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Twaites; all councillors unanimously agreed to the increases.

Standing Orders

The Chair emailed the updated version of the Standing Orders to all councillors prior to the meeting. This replaces the 2010 version. Councillors agreed to the update. The Standing Orders are available to view on the Parish Website. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Twaites.

9. Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Discussion/Response

Cllrs Clarke and Twaites attended a 5 Parishes meeting on 15th July. Cllr Clarke reminded those present that this is a meeting of councillors from the five Parish Councils of Bapchild, Milstead, Rodmersham, Tunstall and Bredgar who share a common interest in local planning and for potential collaboration on other matters.

Cllr Twaites gave a summary of the meeting. The meeting discussed the new approach being taken by Swale Borough Council in preparation for the Local Plan consultation next year and in meeting the increased government targets for housing in Swale. Including addressing concerns with previous transport modelling, consulting again on the Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment, working to improve consultation methods; the previous SBC survey was difficult to navigate resulting in many people not responding. Cllr Bonney explained some of the difficulties involved with delivery of housing, with the

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failure of recent developments to include developer funding for NHS services; for example there will be no extra NHS facilities within the new housing at Bapchild as there is no CCG funding. There is a Swale Community-Led Housing Event on Friday, 27 September that will provide information on provision of local needs housing. Parishioners are encouraged to maintain the wildlife census and tree preservation as this can improve decision making for the Local Plan; any tree can be reported to SBC for a TPO.

In preparation for the Local Plan consultation Cllr Bonney advised each village to produce a housing needs survey as this will provide evidence of the local requirement.

The Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment is the first consultation to be actioned, with responses due by 9th September. The PC agreed to respond with Cllr Clarke, Cllr Twaites and Cllr Day to prepare the draft response for review by all Cllrs.

10. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Jane Ingram

There are no issues with Bredgar Post Office or Bredgar Village Hall. At the Blind Marys site, there have been signs of movement with trellis erected on the wall of the toilet block on the Baker site. Cllr. Bonney offered to contact SBC to ask for the trellis to be investigated. The Brazil site has gone to appeal. Cllr. Twaites is to reply to the appeal.

Cllr. Mike Day

Cllr, Day reported the water leak at Swanton Street to SE Water and Southern Water but the site was not visited. Cllr. Day attended a water seminar where it was stated that this area might run out of water in 2010/2021. The two proposed reservoirs have yet to be built. The water companies recommended that the PC included a list in their emergency plan of vulnerable residents who may need help if the taps run dry. Cllr Day agreed to check if the water companies provide facilities for maintaining their own register of vulnerable people, as done by UK Power Networks from their website.

Cllr. Day is hoping to attend the KALC Transport Conference 2019 (26 Oct 2019).

Cllr. Beverley McCourt

A large pothole in Bexon Lane has been reported to KHS. The Emergency Plan is ongoing.

Cllr. David Priestley

Rat bait is disappearing at the pond. No rats have been sighted. The duckhouse is an enormous success with 10 new ducks arriving to accompany the resident terrapin and heron, which are often seen basking on the duckhouse.

A pond tidy up has been arranged for Sunday 1st September at 10am. Any residents who wish to help are encouraged to bring their own garden tools. The chain and post at the War Memorial has yet to be replaced following damage caused by a car accident.

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Cllr. Penny Twaites

Borden Primary School Chair of Governors is standing down so the Governing Body is to amalgamate with Bredgar School Governing Body and will be chaired by Sally Murray, current Chair of Bredgar GB. HT of Bredgar School, Madeleine Gower, is to go on secondment to Selling School, for the next academic year. Borden HT is to cover both Borden and Bredgar schools. David Whitehead remains Executive Head.

There is a full cohort for the new school year in September.

SATs were satisfactorily completed.

Cllr. Brian Clarke

The broken footpath ramp at Bush Close has been reported to KHS. A fallen footpath sign from Blind Mary's Lane has been reported to KCC and is scheduled for repair.

One of the three roses in the Jubilee Garden donated by a member of the public has been broken off at the stem. Cllr. Clarke asked councillors if there were any objections to purchasing a new rose. Councillors agreed to the proposal. Any plants will be protected with a post in future to prevent a re-occurrence.

A bulb has been replaced to repair one of the pond floodlights.

The recreation ground fencing was repaired this week but a significant volume of green waste needed to be moved. Cllr. Clarke proposed hiring a skip and labour to remove the resulting piles of grass cuttings and branches from the recreation ground. Two quotes were obtained for the skip; Cllr. Clarke proposed the lower cost of £228. It was agreed that the PC would engage a local person or business to fill it. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. McCourt.

Swanton Street will be included in the next government deployment of broadband work contracted to BT Openreach. This means that Swanton Street will receive fibre broadband to the premises in the future. Deployment schedules are still being confirmed but the likely timescale is late 2020 or early 2021.

Cllr. Clarke is to attend the Swale Community-Led Housing Event Friday, 27 September.

11. Village Matters

Speed Surveys

Bexon Lane: The mean speeds recorded were 29.2 miles per hour westbound and 28.7 mph eastbound. The 85th percentile speeds recorded were 37 mph westbound and 35.9 mph eastbound.

Swanton Street: The mean speeds recorded were 32.7 miles per hour northbound and 34.5 mph southbound. The 85th percentile speeds recorded were 37 mph northbound and 39.7 mph southbound.

Unfortunately Kent Highways has advised us that these speed do not meet the requirements for extending the 30mph in Bexon Lane or reducing the 40mph limit in Swanton Street.

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Cllr. Bonney advised the PC that they might obtain support from the Kent Downs AONB and PCSOs.

Flooding Issues

There has been no progress in solutions for the flooding issues around the village. The likelihood of flooding is high in various sites in the village due to disappearing hedgerows and drainage problems. Residents are anxious not to repeat the devastating flooding that happened previously.

Swanton Street Footpath

Cllr. Twaites is continuing to source a map of the area.

New Defibrillator

Following the use of the defibrillator in the spring, a new one has been installed three days after the old one was removed. Training is to be arranged by the village hall committee in collaboration with the PC.

Cemetery – Gravestone Damage

Following a report of damage to a gravestone, the PC enquired with Blenwood whether they could shed any light on it. Blenwood stated that they only use a strimmer in the cemetery. The PC insurers informed the clerk that it was a matter between the owner of the grave and the contractor.

HGVs

Cllr Clarke is waiting for KCC Highways to reply to his enquiry following parishioners concerns, raised at the open Parish Meeting, about HGVs in the narrow lanes around Bredgar. Councillors endorsed the concerns raised by parishioners.

Cllr Clarke advised that work on the approved planning application for a cold store at Bicknor would increase the requirement for movement of large vehicles on the narrow country lanes whilst it is under construction. In their response to the planning application Kent Highways advised that without the cold store there would be more lorries transporting the apples for storage elsewhere. With the new cold store there would likely be fewer but larger lorries.

Councillors suggested that width and weight restrictions are needed to direct traffic as there have been problems particularly at the junction of Bexon Lane and The Street, where the Church wall has been damaged several times.

Cllr Bonney recommended that the PC request the issue is reviewed at the next Swale JTB.

Planters

The planters have been installed outside the Farmshop. The donation from BAD has been passed on to the Farmshop.

Remembrance Day Service

Cllr. Twaites is to coordinate the various tasks involved in the Remembrance Day Service.

Christmas Tree

Cllr. Ingram is to arrange for the Christmas tree to be ordered from Bredgar Farmshop.

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VE Day Celebrations

Discussions are ongoing regarding the proposed celebration for VE Day next year. Cllr Ingram and Cllr McCourt agreed to investigate further village activities that could be arranged on a small budget.

12. 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.

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

14. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm in Bredgar School.