

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Chair Cllr. Penny Twaites;
Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke; Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Jane Ingram;
Cllr. Dick Clack; Cllr. Beverley McCourt and Cllr. David Priestley.

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

Members of the Public: Five members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Susie Hickman

2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

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 hours.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 21st November 2018 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

Cllr. Clack has cleared the weir at the pond twice recently, and due to work carried out by Kent Highways in Primrose Lane, drainage is more effective now.

The proposed litterbin in Jubilee Gardens is ongoing.

The increased costs for grass cutting for next year have been agreed with Bredgar Cricket Club.

5. PCSO Report

PCSO Ryan Atherton attended the meeting and explained that there are currently three PCSOs covering the Swale area; he covers West Downs and has taken over from PCSO Lorraine Holmes who is on maternity leave. He is new to the rural area having previously covered town areas such as Murston.

PCSO Ryan has carried out a stat search for the previous few months; there have been two vehicle thefts since 1st January, one being a much sought after Land Rover Defender. There have been two attempted burglaries, which are being investigated by CID. A trend local to Sittingbourne of motorcycle thefts has been noted where the motorcycles are put into a van and driven off. Theft of number plates is also on the increase. Special screws for number plates are offered free at Sittingbourne Police Station.

Bredgar Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting

Held at Bredgar School

On Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Parishioners are warned to look out for cold callers, mainly roofing or garden services, who may attempt to scam people.

A resident who recently moved from Bredgar stated that whilst in the process of moving he was a victim of crime. PCSO Ryan offered to find out if any progress had been made.

Cllrs proposed including an article in the next parish magazine to warn against being taken in.

KCC Cllr. Bowles arrived at 7.40pm.

Cllrs continue to report siting of the disqualified driver driving in Bredgar. PCSO Ryan is aware and will flag the issue up with the traffic team. He advised continued reporting to the police.

Chair. Cllr. Twaites thanked PCSO Ryan and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting.

6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public

A parishioner having problems with a planning application asked the Parish Council for support. The PC had previously found no objection to the planning proposal but it had not been approved by SBC. Chair, Cllr. Twaites stated that Bredgar Councillors are laymen who give a view based on limited planning knowledge and are keen to allow residents to improve their life. SBC require particular reasons for supporting an application that has been denied.

As it is to go to committee; Cllr. Bowles advised the parishioner to speak to Cllr. Bonney who may be able to help. Cllr. Bowles also offered to look into it and Cllr. Twaites is to write to Kelly Sharp at SBC.

Mark Pullen has kindly offered to continue filling the dog bag dispensers and to carry on putting the cemetery bin out on bin day. The PC is grateful for his assistance.

The new key holder for the recreation ground vehicle gate is to be Paul Charman. The key may be required if the air ambulance needs to land in the village. The clerk is to find out if the key holder can be registered with the air ambulance service. PCSO Ryan also offered to put the information on his system.

Following a recent campaign initiated by Paul Charman, no one came forward to volunteer to assist with Speedwatch in the village. Mr. Charman shared his disappointment and stated that although there are six people who volunteer, only four are regulars and the lack of response threatens the valuable work that they do. It is unlikely that the same level of action as last year will be maintained this year.

Two members of the public left at 8.05pm.

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.**

7. Authorisation of Accounts

Payments

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 14/11/18 | Cllr. Clack | Rope for Pond/Duck House | £21.26 |
| 30/11/18 | Cllr. Clack | Lamp for Pond | £9.60 |
| 01/12/18 | Bredgar Farmshop | PO Rent | £150.00 |
| 05/12/18 | Ask A Gardener | Village Maintenance | £132.00 |
| 05/12/18 | T. Hudson | Honorarium/Training | £462.00 |
| 06/12/18 | Mid Kent Fisheries | Fish Clearance | £660.00 |
| 10/12/18 | Cllr. Clack | Xmas Gifts x2 | £13.00 |
| 14/2/18 | SSE | Pond Electricity | £78.85 |
| 29/12/18 | Bredgar Farmshop | Xmas Tree | £40.00 |
| 29/12/18 | KCC | Grass Cutting | £525.31 |
| 01/01/19 | Bredgar Farmshop | PO Rent | £150.00 |
| 05/01/19 | KALC | Training | £72.00 |
| 05/01/19 | KALC | Training | £72.00 |
| 11/01/19 | Ask A Gardener | Village Maintenance | £66.00 |
| 18/01/19 | Bredgar Cricket Club | Refund of Lease | £43.75 |
| 28/01/19 | Tunstall PC | Speedwatch Equip. Maint. | £129.00 |
| 01/02/19 | Bredgar Farmshop | PO Rent | £150.00 |
| 06/02/19 | Cllr. Clarke | USB Sticks | £10.58 |
| 10/02/19 | K-Blacksmithing | Cemetery Railings | £660.00 |

Receipts

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 07/11/18 | David Parry | Burial Plot Purchase | £190.00 |
| 12/12/18 | Colin Finch | Burial Plot Purchase | £130.00 |
| 24/12/18 | Bredgar Cricket Club | Donation | £43.75 |
| 31/01/19 | Bredgar Cricket Club | Grass Cutting | £484.00 |
| 15/02/19 | KCC Cllr. Bowles | Grant | £1500.00 |

There were no queries regarding the accounts as presented.
Proposed by Cllr. P. Twaites; seconded by Cllr. J. Ingram.
Cllr. Bowles left at 8.15pm.

8. Finance

Financial Review

The Financial Review was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting by email. Cllr. Clack added £150.00 to the expenditure for fitting the new fencing.

Standing Orders

Cllr. Clarke offered to review the updated Standing Orders issued by NALC. It will be approved at a future PC meeting.

Precept Increase Confirmation

At the previous meeting the PC agreed to increase the precept by 2.4%. However, the residents Council Tax invoices for Bredgar state the % increase at 3.8%. The clerk is to investigate.

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Internal Auditor

Mr. Keith Scott has agreed to continue to act as internal auditor for Bredgar Parish Council.

9. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Clarke

Village Drainage

Following contact with Kent Highways, blockages in Primrose Lane have been cleared successfully allowing the weir at the pond to drain effectively. Councillors agreed that no more work is required to allow the pond to drain freely at the present time. It is hoped that a soak away at the motorway bridge will be cleaned to aid drainage further.

The PC is to approach SBC asking for more road cleaning to be carried out in the village.

Recreation Ground

The PC approved the request by Kent Highways to create a ditch in the recreation ground behind the play area to allow excess water to drain away from Silver Street.

Kent Highways attempted to clear drains in Silver Street but failed to remove the lids. Different equipment will be used next time.

Swanton Street

Work is ongoing to find a solution to the potential flood problem.

A report on flooding across Kent is due out soon.

Other Matters:

- A request has been submitted to clear drains in The Street.
- A request to fill potholes was successful.
- Two speed surveys by Kent Highways are being followed up.
- Cllr. Clarke has been advised that only one contact email is required for registering GDPR.
- Efforts to get better broadband in Swanton Street are ongoing.
- Wreaths laid at the War Memorial in November are to be cleared and the site cleaned up.
- Councillors agreed that there are currently no problems with grass cutting in the village; grass is usually cut finely so no mess is left behind.

Cllr. D. Clack.

Cllr. Clack is organising quotes for new fencing for the recreation ground.

Cllr. B. McCourt

Cllr. McCourt attended a meeting on Emergency Planning in November. The PC Emergency Plan requires updating with input from councillors and residents collaborating together. The Annual Parish Meeting is planned for 22nd May in the Village Hall where the matter will be discussed along with the Local Plan and various village matters.

Cllr. D. Priestley

Nothing to report

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Cllr. J. Ingram

Optivo agreed that residents in Primrose Grove are able to apply for ownership of the pathway in unison to save each paying separately. This will be communicated to them by the Chair.

Bredgar Post Office continues to serve the village and surrounding areas well. Councillors recognise that while some villagers support the Farmshop, more custom is needed because if the Farmshop closes the Post Office will close too.

Cllr. P. Twaites

There has been no particular news concerning the Local Plan over recent months.

Cllrs. Twaites and Clarke, as part of the 5Parishes group, are to meet with Councillors at Lenham to learn about Lenham's Neighbourhood Plan. This will be reported back at the next PC meeting.

The remaining members of the public left at 9.05pm.

10. Cemetery

Cemetery Regulations

Each year, it is usual for Bredgar cemetery fees to be aligned with the revised fees at SBC cemeteries. Councillors will be asked by email whether they wish to adopt the revised fees when the information becomes available.

Enquiry for Memorial

Further information has not been forthcoming so a decision on the proposed headstone for the grave in question is on hold.

11. Village Matters

Cllr. Bowles Grant

The grant from KCC Cllr. Bowles will be spent in line with the presentation given on the recreation ground gate and fencing. Cllr. Twaites thanked Cllr. Clarke for assisting with the presentation.

Recreation Ground Fence Replacement

Quotes are currently being sought for the fencing

Recreation Ground Gate

A parishioner asked if a gate to the recreation ground could be installed which allowed a motorised wheelchair to gain access. After extensive research by Cllr. Clack, it was reported that the current kissing gate is the largest available therefore it will not be replaced. The parishioner was offered a key to the vehicle gate to gain access when required but he declined.

Maintenance of grass at War Memorial and Jubilee Gardens

A quote for grass maintenance at the War Memorial is to be sought from Jonathan Gardner.

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar School**

On Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

20mph Scheme

There has been frustratingly little response to the PC '20 is plenty' campaign. KCC have announced a review of their speed limit policy. There will be no progress with changing to 20MPH limits in Bredgar until KCC change their policies. But the speed surveys to be carried out in Bexon Lane and Swanton Street might lead to limits in those roads to being reduced.

KCC Cllr. Bowles felt that the issue would benefit from pressure from County Members.

Cricket Club Lease

The PC and Bredgar Cricket Club are putting the final points together for a successful conclusion to the new lease.

Duck House

Bredgar Pond has a new duck house. The PC thanked Heather Spratt for building and donating the house to the village. Councillors helped to launch it and photos are available on the Bredgar website.

Swanton Street Footpath

Progress has been made in getting a footpath for parishioners along Swanton Street.

NHW Coordinator

Councillors discussed the requirements for a new Neighbourhood Watch coordinator. NHW is a valuable service in the village with parishioners being the eyes and ears of the police. Any issues can be reported to the NHW representative in each area of the village, who will liaise with the PCSO and police. The role of the coordinator is not onerous and training will be given. The position is still open.

12. Any Other Business

The clerk distributed nomination forms to councillors for the election of Parish Councillors. There are two vacancies to be filled.

- **The next PC meeting will be on Wednesday 15th May at 7.30pm.**
- **The public Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May at 7pm in Bredgar Village Hall.**