

**Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar Village School
Wednesday 21st August 2013 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites; Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke;
Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman; Cllr. Mr. G. Kite; Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen and
Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson.

In Attendance: KCC Cllr. Mr. Mike Baldock.

Members of the Public: There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial interests.

There were no declarations to report.

The duration of the meeting was two hours.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th May 2013 and matters arising from these Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th May 2013 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman; seconded by Cllr. Mr. G. Kite. They are now available on the Parish website. They were signed by the Vice Chairman at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Pond Railings

The damaged pond railings have been repaired.

Jubilee Bench

The PC proposed to assess the finances for purchase of the bench following expenditure on the pond.

4. Ten minutes representation by the public.

There were no members of the public present.

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. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. M. Pullen.

7. Reports from Councillors

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Cllr. B. Clarke

Broadband - Cllr. Mr. Clarke updated councillors on the situation of superfast broadband for the village residents stating that KCC at first advised that Bredgar was unlikely to be part of the County Plan and that the PC generated an interest to look for funding elsewhere. Meanwhile, KCC updated their advice to state that the village probably would come under the County Plan after all. The contract has been allocated to BT who are still conducting the planning phase for deployment of the broadband under the KCC County Plan.

BT were due to report back in September, but KCC advised in July that the report is expected to be late - October at the earliest. The programme of updates will be done in 3-month phases and KCC advise that the work in each phase will be announced as the project progresses.

Cllr. Mr. Clarke had written to KCC Cllr. Mike Baldock outlining the strong demand for broadband in Bredgar and asked him to add this to the agenda for his meeting with Parish representatives in September. In that meeting the PC will seek his support to lobby for Bredgar to be early in the deployment programme.

Question: Will funding run out before all areas are covered?

Cllr. Mr. Baldock offered to assist in pushing forward the interests of Bredgar and the surrounding villages for inclusion at a meeting in September.

Question: What influence does KCC have over BT?

Cllr. Mr. Baldock informed councillors that he has been working with Newington PC to try to obtain information on upgrading their exchange and was told to ring BT, so KCC seem reluctant to become involved. Cllr. Baldock will continue to investigate on behalf of the villages wishing to upgrade to superfast broadband.

Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen

Cllr. Pullen asked councillors to consider a deterrent to pigeons on the top bar of the swings at the recreation ground, as the seats were unclean.

Councillors agreed to the proposal if funds from the expected grant allow.

Cllr. Mr. Pullen informed the meeting that the dog bag receptacles require replenishment. The clerk is to order more bags.

Cllr. Mr. G. Kite

Cllr. Mr. Kite informed the meeting that the brambles along Wrens Road had now been cut back; potholes had been filled in including Stoney Road and a new sign has been erected at Sutton Baron Road directing traffic to the M2 motorway.

The path at Travers Gardens is overgrown. Cllrs. Kite and Clarke agreed to cut back foliage and transport it to the council tip.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman

The flower displays in the village have been maintained through the summer.

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All councillors would like to express their thanks to Mrs. Joyce Cuff for watering the flowers every evening during the recent hot spell.

Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley

There has been a renewed problem of rats around the pond. Following an offer to deal with the issue from a parishioner, Cllr. Priestley obtained a quote from Mighty Pest Control who quoted for six visits per year along with four callouts per year and a detailed report, at £210 + VAT per year. Councillors noted that within the next year all external poisons are to be banned by the Government so felt that it was advisable to agree to a professional company to deal with the rats using more effective poisons. Councillors also took into consideration health issues surrounding the use of controlled substances. Cllr. Priestley agreed to continue to monitor the rats until the company could take over. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. Priestley, seconded by Cllr. Mr. Kite. Cllr. Mr. Baldock is to clarify the proposed grant for the pond improvements at the next KCC Community Funds meeting on 23rd September 2013.

Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites

The school is currently on holiday. The new term will begin with a new Chair of Governors in place: Miranda Rees replaced Steve Evans who retired from the Governing Body. The school has a full Reception Class quota for September.

8. Planning

• Blind Marys Lane

Cllrs. Monique Bonney and Beverley Willis are pursuing the illegal travellers site issue with SBC. It was felt that the housing needs aspect was not fully dealt with at the correct time.

Question: Is there provision for Traveller's sites in the Local Plan?

Cllr. Baldock explained that details have yet to be released but that 90 sites are needed, with 3 currently identified across Swale. Consultation on Traveller's sites is due in the next week.

• Wilboro Hill

A series of shacks has been erected, with a gate to the road, on land in woodland at Wilboro Hill. SBC enforcement officers contacted the presumed owner who stated that the development had been there for more than four years.

• Deans Bottom - Stable Block

The stable block at Deans Bottom has been removed following enforcement procedures at SBC.

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•Bredgar School Grounds

Following a planning application for the removal of a dead tree in the grounds of Bredgar School, councillors agreed to source a replacement from a scheme offering free trees.

• Draft Local Plan

Cllr. Mr. M. Baldock and Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke:

SBC published the latest Draft Local Plan for consultation on 19th August. The consultation is open until the 30th September.

Cllr Clarke represented BPC at a 5POG meeting to plan and coordinate the 5POG, CPRE and Parish Council responses.

Various points in the updated new Draft Local Plan (DLP) were discussed. The new DLP has been written to align with the new planning system (NPPF) resulting from the governments Localism Bill. Under NPPF the format of the new Draft Local Plan is changed. Some content (such as KSP) of previous proposals are 'dropped' (not expected to happen by 2031) but still appear in the plan under a special chapter "Locations for new development and longer-term opportunities" indicating future development areas. The plan can be modified under agreed processes during its coverage period if circumstances change. A major change in content in the latest Draft Plan is the proposal for a left in / left out onto coast-bound M2 Junction 5a in the next 5 years linking to KSP. 5POG, CPRE and the PC agreed to share information as they prepare responses aligned to their different responsibilities.

Cllr. Mr. Baldock advised councillors to copy him in on e-mails requesting service from KCC, as this would enable him to assist with gaining faster resolutions (when required). He then left the meeting at 8.30pm. Councillors thanked Cllr. Baldock for attending the meeting.

9. Proposal of Pathway from Swanton Street to Village

Burden Bros has been approached regarding establishing an informal footpath from Swanton Street to The Sun Public House area but no response has been received yet. Councillors discussed the proposal and suggested the other side of the road, land owned by Mr. Atwood, appeared to be more suitable for a pathway as it was flatter. Further discussions will take place following any response from Burden Bros.

10. Control of rats in the village

This has been covered under Cllr. Mr. Priestley's report.

11. Financial contribution to Farmshop sign.

Councillors considered making a contribution to the cost of new signage for

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the Farmshop and Post Office. A contribution of 25% of the cost was proposed as it was seen to benefit the village and promote the Post Office, it was hoped that the existing signage on the roadside would then be removed and that any additional lighting would only be lit during opening hours. Proposed by Cllr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hickman.

12. Update on Neighbourhood Watch.

Neighbourhood Watch appears to have been successful so far with relevant messages filtering up to the police and down to residents.

The clerk is to follow up new NHW signage for the roads leading into the village.

Cllr. Mrs. Hickman left the meeting at 8.55pm.

13. Village Landscaping.

• Small plot outside 1 Primrose Grove

The small landscaping plot adjacent to No. 1 Primrose Grove is to be filled in as shrubs have consistently failed to grow.

• Continuing cost of maintenance

The work involved in the landscaping maintenance in the village is variable due to the time of year but councillors agreed that the costs are acceptable.

14. Any other business.

Mr. John Measday

Councillors were saddened by the news of the death of former Parish Councillor, Mr. John Measday. Mr. Measday served on the PC for several years during the 1990's.

Councillor Training

Councillors showed a willingness to undertake various training, particularly in planning aspects to enhance their understanding of their role. It was proposed that an enquiry be made, perhaps with SBC Planning Dept, that a representative carry out a training session for councillors which could also be offered to neighbouring parishes to attend as well.

Local Councils Explained Publication

Councils considered the purchase of the new publication, Local Councils Explained, but felt that any information or advice that may be required to carry out PC services could be obtained through current membership of KALC.

15. Next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th November 2013 at 7.30pm.