

**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at**  
**Bredgar School**  
**On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Present:** Chair Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites;  
Vice Chair Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke; Vice Chair Cllr. Ms. J. Collins;  
Cllr. Mr. D. Clack; Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman and Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

**Clerk:** Mrs. T. Hudson

**In Attendance:** SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from KCC Cllr. Andrew Bowles, PCSO Lorraine Holmes, Bev McCourt and Nicholas Reuttner.

**2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial Interests**

An interest was declared by the clerk in respect of the Post Office.  
An interest was declared by Cllr. Collins in respect of the Farmshop/Tearoom.

**3. Declaration of any intent 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 a half hours.

**4a. Resignation of Cllr. Mr. A. Dwyer**

The resignation of Cllr. Andy Dwyer, due to work commitments, was accepted by the PC. Councillors thanked Mr. Dwyer for his contribution to Parish matters.

**4b. Co-option of Bev McCourt**

The Chair, along with both Vice Chairs, met Mrs McCourt informally and recommended that Mrs McCourt be co-opted onto the PC. The Register of Interests form is to be forwarded to SBC.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. D. Clack, seconded by Cllr. J. Collins.  
They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

**Swanton Street Path**

The Farmer has agreed to the proposal of a footpath along the edge of the field. Cllr. Clack is to walk the proposed length with the farmer to finalise arrangements.

**Bench at Recreation Ground**

Cllr. Clack has surveyed the bench and concluded that, as a concrete structure, it may not be repairable. Further investigation is required which may result in the recommendation of a new bench.

**Stoney Road**

The footpath has been registered and inspected by the authority. It has been ploughed over but is still usable.

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**Broken Window**

The broken window at Gore Rd has been reported to Optiva but appears to be the responsibility of the tenant.

**Damaged Tree**

The damaged tree in Gore Rd has been reported to Optiva but has not been replaced. The PC may replace the tree with parish funds.

**Post Office Planters**

The donor of funds to purchase bollards to protect the Post Office has been asked to agree to the purchase of planters instead [and has subsequently done so]. These will be installed soon.

**6. PCSO Report**

PCSO Lorraine Holmes e-mailed a report to the clerk stating there had been a few incidents in December of lamping and one of criminal damage. A drop-in surgery is to be held in the Tearoom in March.

Councillors felt that PCSO Holmes was pro active, and visited the village regularly, the Chair is to write and thank her for her attention to village matters.

**7. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public**

Nothing to report.

**8. Authorisation of Accounts**

**Payments**

26/10/17	SSE	Pond Electricity	£55.35
26/10/17	Cllr. Clack	Xmas Lights/Sharp sand	£49.80
30/10/17	Cllr. Hickman	Plants	£47.00
01/11/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
07/11/17	J. Gardner	Village Maintenance	£165.00
01/12/17	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
09/12/17	T. Hudson	Honorarium	£325.00
09/12/17	J. Gardner	Village Maintenance	£66.00
09/12/17	Bredgar Farmshop	Xmas Tree	£35.00
16/12/17	KCC	Grass cutting	£477.80
27/12/17	SSE	Pond Electricity	£61.77
01/01/18	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	£150.00
06/01/18	J. Gardner	Village Maintenance	£33.00
10/01/18	Ballantine Castings Ltd	Memorial repairs	£477.00
21/01/18	Cllr. Clack	Memorial repairs	£28.86

**Receipts**

29/11/17	HMRC	VAT Refund	£1117.35
27/12/17	Bredgar Cricket Club	Donation	£43.75
06/01/18	Bredgar Cricket Club	Grass Cutting	£469.91
25/01/18	Bredgar PCC	Grass Cutting	£260.00
26/01/18	Linda Foley	Burial	£645.00

Proposed by Cllr. S. Hickman, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack.

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Councillors were pleased with the work of Ask a Gardner, who manages the village garden maintenance.

**9. Finance**

**Financial Review**

Cllr. Clack informed the meeting that the cost of the railings might be reduced, as one railing cannot be repaired.

**Precept Increase Confirmation**

The clerk informed the meeting that the increase of 2.8% had been submitted to SBC.

**Internal Auditor**

The clerk informed the meeting that Mr. Keith Scott has agreed to continue as Internal Auditor, with slight changes to the way in which the audit is conducted, as recommended by the Responsible Financial Officer, following recent training. Cllr. Collins agreed to review the bank statements monthly as an additional safeguard.

**SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney arrived and left at 8.40pm, following discussion of the planning matters set out below.**

**10. Reports from Councillors**

**Cllr. Brian Clarke**

The Purple Leafed Plum tree at the Silver Street/, Wrens Road and Gore Road junction has been planted and payment approved. Thanks to Councillor Bowles for funding it.

**20 MPH Scheme:**

A letter has been sent to all parishioners seeking their opinions and to confirm support for the scheme. 62 people supported the proposed changes and new 20MPH limit.

One person opposed the change. 54 of the responses came from Bredgar Parishioners and 9 came from people living outside the Parish. Only eight people commented that additional traffic calming or speed checks would be necessary to ensure the new limits are respected.

In January, Kent Highways installed equipment to measure the speed of cars on Primrose Lane. We are waiting for the results to be published. The average mean speed of all vehicles recorded will determine if the speed limit changes can be implemented without additional traffic calming infrastructure.

**Community Emergency Plan:**

Information about our Community Emergency Plan has been published in the Parish News and on the Parish Council website. There have been encouraging responses from some parishioners offering services, but no reports of vulnerable residents. The plan will be published on our website, without any parishioners' personal details and reviewed annually.

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Rural Crime Training:

Cllr. Clarke attended training for awareness of rural crime issues. Presentations were given by Kent Rural Police Team, Kent & Essex Police Anti Slavery Partnership, National Farmers Union and Kent Horse Watch covering a wide range of topics including slavery, human trafficking, theft, livestock theft/poaching, equine crime, fly-tipping, future methods of policing, Crimestoppers, Country Eye, Neighbourhood Watch and Kent Horse Watch on Facebook.

General Data Protection Regulations – Training:

Cllr. Clarke attended training to learn about new regulations that come into force in May this year. Bredgar Parish Council may need to do some work to ensure full compliance. An assessment of the training was circulated with a recommendation that a sub committee address this.

The Chair agreed and a sub committee of Cllr. Clarke and the clerk will look at GDPR.

**Cllr. Susie Hickman**

Cllr. Hickman thanked Cllr. Clack for maintaining the planters at the War Memorial while she was away. Cllr. Hickman attended the Charity meeting; money was distributed at Christmas as well as bouquets for two parishioners suffering ill health.

**Cllr. David Priestley**

Cllr. Priestley researched and wrote a Metal Detecting Policy. The policy was unanimously agreed by the PC, proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. P. Twaites. It is now available on the Parish website. The duck house is to be erected soon. The shrubs alongside the pond are to be trimmed.

**Cllr. D. Clack**

Rat poison can no longer be purchased in bulk so costs may rise. The electrics at the pond require servicing; the clerk is to contact the electrician.

Weeds have been sprayed.

Following discussions, there were no objections to the proposed closure of footpath Z180.

The trimming of the hedgerow along Wrens Road side of the recreation ground has been carried out.

**Cllr. J. Collins**

The entire Village Hall committee has resigned. The AGM is on 3<sup>rd</sup> April where a new committee will be elected.

Central Government indicated that Community Post Offices are remaining.

Bredgar Farmshop is struggling to attract new customers. It has had a revamp with a Joules boutique; a garden department including an extensive lawn mower selection as well as gardening implements; a wide range of alcoholic drinks, and the Tearoom will undergo a renewed focus in March. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to visit and make purchases to keep a valued asset in the village, otherwise it could close. There are plenty of good brands and the staff are willing to go the extra mile to get whatever you are looking for. Cllrs were reminded that if the farmshop goes, so does the Post Office and other businesses attached to it.

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**Cllr. P. Twaites**

There is a School Governor Day next Wednesday – no particular news to report meanwhile.

**11. PC Regulations**

**General Data Protection Regulations**

A sub committee will look at the new regulations coming into force and recommend actions to be taken.

**Cemetery Regulations**

SBC has yet to publish their annual increase in fees. Once these are known, the clerk will recommend to councillors the annual increase for Bredgar Cemetery charges. The increase will be actioned from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and information will be available on the Parish website.

**12. Village Matters**

**War Memorial Incident**

As the driver of the vehicle, which crashed into the War Memorial, was not insured, the PC insurance will be informed of the incident. The Motor Insurance Bureau will pay the excess. The driver is due in court on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**20mph Scheme**

See notes in Cllr. Clarke's report.

**Cricket Club Lease**

The Lease has been drafted and is with the respective lawyers.

**Emergency Plan**

See notes in Cllr. Clarke's report.

**Metal Detecting**

A Metal Detecting Policy is available on the Parish website.

**13. Planning**

**SE Development**

The Chair, Cllr. Twaites, and Vice Chair Cllr. Clarke have looked very closely at the 'impact Assessment Scoping' application reviewed from Quinn developers, in relation to some 11,000 houses to the SE of Sittingbourne and worked extensively on a reply to the proposal. SBC Cllr. Bonney represented the ward at the recent LDF meeting (Cllrs Clarke and Twaites in attendance) and informed councillors that SBC are to create a new Local Plan. The members of BPC are unanimously opposed to the proposed development of 11,000 houses SE of Sittingbourne. The Five Parishes Opposition Group is seeking professional assistance from consultants in preparation for the planning application when it is submitted. Cllr. Clarke informed the meeting that a parishioner had proposed an alternative route from a potential new J5a on the M2, to Swanton Street.

Parishioners are asked to report immediately any hedgerows that are being taken out as it can be stopped by a SBC Enforcement Officer. Also records of rare, protected and endangered wildlife are requested and everyone is

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encouraged to register sightings on the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Many species are entitled to protection from development.

**One Acre, Blind Marys Lane**

It is expected that the latest application at One Acre is likely to be rejected by SBC. An Appeal is also likely to fail, as there is evidence that no person resides at the site, G & T supply has improved since the temporary permission was granted and policies have changed. Local residents are opposed to the application. The Chair will be writing a letter of opposition to SBC.

**14. Any Other Business**

One of the 'No Fishing' signs has been ripped down. It is being replaced.

**15. Next Meeting**

**The next PC meeting will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm.**