

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the AGM
Held at Bredgar School
On Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Mrs. T. Hudson

In Attendance: SBC Cllr. Mrs. M. Bonney.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from KCC Cllr. Mike Baldock.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial Interests

Cllr. M. Pullen declared an interest in relation to the Recreation Ground, and Clerk T. Hudson in relation to the Post Office. Members completed or obtained copies of the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests forms and submitted them to the clerk for forwarding to SBC. Members also completed Declaration of Office forms.

3. Declaration of any intent to record or film the PC meeting by any member of the Council or member of the public

No declarations of intent to record or film were made.

4. Election of Officers

The Chair welcomed returning Councillor Mr. Dick Clack. Nominations were put forward by e-mail prior to the meeting for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair: Cllr. Mrs. Twaites - Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman
Seconded by Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.

Vice Chair: Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke - Proposed by Cllr. G. Kite
Seconded by Cllr. Mr. D. Clack.

5. Elect Councillors to roles

Councillors were elected to the following roles:

Penny Twaites	Representative to the Governing Body of Bredgar School; Responses to Residential and Local Planning Applications; work on matters such as the Local Plan
Brian Clarke	IT; Broadband; Swale West Forum; work on matters such as the Local Plan; Rural Forum
Dick Clack	KALC; Pest Control; Swale West Forum; Footpaths; Post Office support
Susie Hickman	Thatcher and Eleemosyary Charities Rep; Parks & Gardens
Graham Kite	KCC Highways; Rural Forum
David Priestley	Pond Warden; Pest Control; Heritage

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Mark Pullen KALC; Parks & Gardens; Village Hall Rep; Cemetery
Teresa Hudson Website.
SBC Cllr. Mrs. M. Bonney arrived at 7.50pm.

6. Financial Matters

Change of signatories for bank accounts

Due to the retirement of Mr. Willis from the Parish Council, it is necessary to facilitate a change of signatory for the PC bank accounts. Vice Chair, Cllr. Clarke has agreed to become a signatory along with Chair Cllr. Twaites.

Proposed by Cllr. Mr. G. Kite, seconded by Cllr. Mr. D. Clack.

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The clerk has reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and agreed with councillors that no amendments are required. The documents are available to view on the PC website.

Renewal of Membership of 'Action with Communities in Rural Kent'

The PC resolved not to renew the membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent at the present time.

7. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 18th March 2015 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman. They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Starter Pack

Cllr. Mrs. Bonney offered to e-mail a template that Rodmersham currently use for a similar idea. Cllr. Mr. Pullen agreed to bring a first draft of the document to the next PC meeting.

Communication Channels

Cllr. Clarke has investigated ways for easier electronic communication between councillors and parishioners. No suitable facility has been decided upon yet.

PCSO

Bredgar and the surrounding area still have no dedicated PCSO.

Bredgar PC Website

Councillors felt that the PC website needed enlivening. The clerk and Cllr. Clarke are to review.

Primrose Lane Pedestrian line

Enquiries are to be made with Cllr. Baldock concerning the proposed markings on Primrose Lane for pedestrians.

Traffic Calming

The PC resolved to ask Cllr. Baldock to revisit enforcing the speed limit through the village from Swanton Street.

8. Ten Minutes representation by the public
Swanton Street Footpath

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There are two possible routes for a potential footpath for Swanton Street residents leading into the village. Each route would impact on local landowners' land. KCC proposed an elaborate pathway with tarmac and railings etc. however, this was felt to be unnecessary and a simple track would suffice and be less costly. Enquiries are to be made with the landowner by a member of the public.

9. Authorisation of Accounts

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley.
There were no queries.

10. Annual Accounts for the year ending 31/03/2015

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 have been prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs. T. Hudson, and were circulated to councillors by e-mail prior to the meeting. They have been audited by BPC's Internal Auditor Mr. K. Scott and approved by the Chair. There were no questions from councillors. The Annual Accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Chair read out the Statements as required in the Audit Commission statement and the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer duly signed it with the unanimous approval of the councillors.

The accounts are now published on the PC website.

11. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke

A check with BT on the progress of Broadband for the village confirmed that it was on track for delivery in mid-summer. KCC and BT are currently agreeing a new procurement schedule which will be updated on the BT website in June.

The allotments in Silver Street are all taken now, any further enquiries for a plot will go on a waiting list.

Cllr. Mr. D. Priestley

The pond remains generally healthy. Chris Logden is to replant reeds, which were eaten by ducks.

The pest control contract has ended and Cllr. Priestley along with Cllr. Clack will continue to bait the traps and monitor the rats. It may be necessary to purchase some new traps.

Councillors agreed to a working party to tidy up the planting around the pond alongside the road on 20th June at 10am.

Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen

The Village Hall Committee has held their AGM and all is well. The Chairman, Andy Dwyer, has agreed to continue in the post for one more year.

An overgrown tree in the cemetery has been chopped back.

Cllr. Mr. G. Kite

Rats have become a problem in Silver Street; Cllr. Kite is to contact the Drainage Board to try to resolve the issue as the rats are in the drains.

The footpath sign at the top of Deans Hill, which was bent over, has been removed. Tree roots along Travers Walkway are lifting the path. Councillors are unsure who owns the path; Cllr. Clack offered to investigate.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman

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Nothing to report.

Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites

The school building works are progressing, slightly behind schedule.

Pupils completed their SATs this week.

12. Clerk Committee

A committee has been set up to oversee any issues that may arise for the clerk. The committee comprises three councillors: Cllrs. Twaites, Clarke and Kite.

The committee have formally authorised an increase in the clerk's Honorarium from £1000 to £1300 excluding training. Proposed by Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman.

13. Adoption of Equality & Diversity and Safeguarding Policies

The Equality & Diversity and Safeguarding Policies had been circulated prior to the meeting by e-mail to all councillors. The PC formally adopted the two policies; proposed by Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, seconded by Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke.

The Chair is to confirm whether a dedicated Safeguarding Councillor is required.

Otherwise any issues will be reported to SBC safeguarding officer.

A notice of contacts is displayed on the Parish notice board.

14. Planning Issues

Blind Marys Lane

Cllr. Bonney confirmed that MKP are currently considering the validity of the 'schemes' proposed by occupants of the Brazil site, in relation to the conditions attaching to their temporary planning permission. The High Court decision in relation to the Baker site provides that occupation must cease by 23rd May, with the caravan removed by 23rd July.

The PC suggested contacting MP Gordon Henderson with a view to requesting a further conversation with Central Government concerning Gypsy/Traveller policies and planning matters.

Lime Kiln Road

The site was visited today by SBC planning officers. An application is expected imminently.

Dukes Shaw

Planning officers visited the site today; the application is going to Committee in June /July.

Primrose House

All issues have been resolved between the owners and SBC.

Disabled Parking Space

One Councillor formally objected to the request for a disabled parking space outside no. 2 The Street.

15. Update on Purchase of Bredgar Recreation Ground

Donations for the purchase of Bredgar Recreation Ground are still being received from residents. The running total will be displayed in Bredgar Post Office.

A letter drop updating residents will take place next week.

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16. Update on reopening of Bredgar Post Office and Fun Day

The reopening of the Post Office following the ram raid is on track for 23rd May. A Fun Day is planned for Saturday 27th June to reward customers for their patience. The PC resolved to request a reimbursement of rent paid whilst the Post Office has been out of service. A letter will be sent to the owner of the Farmshop.

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

18. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 29th July.