

**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the**  
**Open Meeting**  
**Held at Bredgar School**  
**On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis, Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. P. Twaites, Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke, Cllr. Mrs. S. Hickman, Cllr. Mr. G. Kite, and Cllr. Mr. M. Pullen.

**Clerk:** Mrs. T. Hudson.

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

**Members of the Public:** There were four members of the public present at the meeting.

Chairman Cllr. Mr. B. Willis opened the meeting and welcomed the parishioners to the meeting.

Cllr. Willis circulated the Chairman's report to all those present after which he invited comment from the parishioners. Refer to the attached Chairman's Report.

**Parish Precept**

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Precept has been increased by £500 to £9500 for the new financial year. The increase anticipates the effect of a request from the current clerk to BPC for a significant increase in remuneration.

**Superfast Broadband**

The proposed date for connection of Bredgar properties to Superfast Broadband has been delayed due to unforeseen problems for BT. Cllr. Mr. B. Clarke is continuing to push for connection at the earliest opportunity.

**Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**

Parishioners praised Nigel Osmer for his continued good work in ensuring NHW runs smoothly.

**Maintenance of the Village and Parish**

The PC thanked Swale councillors Mike Baldock and Monique Bonney who have both assisted the PC in matters concerning highways and planning.

**Bredgar War Memorial**

The restoration of the War Memorial was completed in time for Remembrance Day at a cost of approximately £300 to the PC following generous grants from SBC Cllr. Bonney and KCC Cllrs Burgess and Baldock and from SBC Commemoration Fund. Councillors thanked Dawn Kingsford for landscaping the area.

**KCC Planning Applications**

Parishioners have been disappointed with delays in responses to local planning applications due to new methods employed by KCC. Cllr. Mrs. Bonney explained that attempts to deal with applications from Swale, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells together at KCC were disastrous with delays of six months or more for some applicants. New applications are now being dealt with quicker but some applications from last year are still awaiting resolution.

**Blocked Drains**

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A parishioner complained of blocked drains outside the farm shop. This seems to be a frequent problem; Cllr. Mr. Willis offered to contact KCC Cllr. M. Baldock to resolve the problem.

Three members of the public left at 8.30pm.