

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar Village Hall
On Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke, Vice Chair Cllr. Nigel Osmer, Cllr. Stephen Parfitt, Cllr. David Priestley and Cllr. Penny Twaites.

Clerk: Teresa Hudson

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Malcolm Vessey, Cllr. Hilary Whitnell and Helen Whateley MP.

2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interest

Cllr. Clarke declared an interest in item 10, Hinkins Croft.

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

There were no intentions to record or film the meeting by anyone present.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th May 2026 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, Seconded by Cllr. Priestley. All councillors agreed.

The Minutes were signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public

Blind Marys Lane

The meeting was informed that a second plot in the traveller site in Blind Marys Lane is occupied despite SBC refusing the planning applications submitted over the years and appeals being dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate since 2012. The renewed activity began approximately a month ago. It is thought a water pipe has been illegally connected to provide water to the site. Bredgar PC agreed to support SBC enforcement officers, who will be looking into the issue, by providing a timeline document.

SE Water

On Saturday 8th August, Bredgar and surrounding areas suffered a shut down of water supplies for approximately 18 hours. Some areas were without water for longer. Some businesses were badly affected. SE Water kept customers informed by social media and delivered water to most

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properties; some were missed including some priority properties. Water stations were also set up in Sittingbourne, 4 miles away. The shut down was due to electrical maintenance issues not a water shortage.

7. Police/ NHW Report

PC Richard Divers has carried out two surgeries in Bredgar Tearoom since the last meeting. Cllr. Parfitt reported a van and tools were stolen in Medlar Close; copper was stolen from a property in Deans Bottom and nuisance bikes/quad bikes have been seen around the area. Door bell cameras remain a useful tool for the police to follow up a crime.

The speedwatch team are out most weeks, noting 8 speeders today.

Parishioners are asked to call 101 if there are any issues to report. PC Divers will then follow it up.

8. Authorisation of Accounts

PAYMENTS

01/05/26	EDF	Pond Electricity	72.77
01/05/26	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	200.00
05/05/26	Ask a Gardner	Village Maintenance	225.00
07/05/26	Zurich	Insurance	500.00
30/04/26	UT	Fee	7.00
08/05/26	Cllr. Clarke	POL/PC Meeting/Farmshop	18.23
11/05/26	Lloyds	Fee	3.00
12/05/26	Cllr. Osmer	Land Search Fee	7.00
31/05/26	UT	Fee	7.00
01/06/26	EDF	Pond Electricity	48.18
01/06/6	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	200.00
04/06/26	Ask a Gardener	Village Maintenance	150.00
11/05/26	Post Office	Postage/Waite Letter	2.91
21/05/26	Mutts Butts	Dog Waste Bags	104.78
09/06/26	Lloyds	Fee	3.00
22/06/26	T. Hudson	Honorarium	463.83
22/06/26	Bredgar Village Hall	Hire of Hall 2026	156.00
23/06/26	CPRE	Subscription	36.00
30/06/26	UT	Fee	7.00
01/07/26	EDF	Pond Electricity	48.18
01/07/26	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	200.00
06/07/26	Ask a Gardener	Village Maintenance	150.00
09/07/26	SBC	Brown Bin Rec Grd	62.00
09/07/26	SBC	Brown Bin Cemetery	62.00
10/07/26	Information Comm.	Data Protection	47.00
10/07/26	Lloyds	Fee	3.00

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10/07/26	Maypole Bells	Decking Gate	900.00
15/06/26	Shanlec	Pond Electricity Work	450.00
15/07/26	Adrian Martin	Pond Maintenance	220.00
19/07/26	ROSPA	Play Area Inspection	104.40
19/07/26	Cllr. Osmer	Land Registry x 2	14.00
21/07/26	Hippo Waste	Hippo Bag/Cemetery	202.78
23/07/26	Apple	LibreOffice	8.99
27/07/26	Hi Blow	Pond Pump	506.99

RECEIPTS

07/05/26	HMRC	VAT Refund	1645.32
07/05/26	Bredgar Book	Book Sale	15.00
19/06/26	HMRC	VAT Refund	341.40
25/06/26	Bredgar Cricket C	Rec Grd Rent	50.00

There were no questions from Councillors on the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Osmer, all councillors agreed.

9. Financial Matters

Financial Review

The Financial Review was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors proposed to confer on the proposed 2027 precept at the November meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Parfitt, all councillors agreed.

10. Village Matters

Local Green Spaces Request – Hinkins Croft

A letter was received by the Parish Council in June from BTF property management on behalf of the Church concerning Glebe land at Hinkins Croft allotments in Silver Street. However, the land does not belong to the Parish Council so the matter was passed on to Bredgar Church Warden and the treasurer. The allotments have been an important part of the Bredgar community since Elizabeth I. In 1883 a note in Church records, records an allowance given due to potato blight. The site also accommodates the Platinum Jubilee orchard, a wild flower area and a copse with various wildlife. Part of the area is also leased to Holly Cottage.

Councillors discussed whether Hinkins Croft met the criteria to be included in the National Planning Framework for dedication as a Local Green Space. Bredgar Recreation Ground is already to be designated a Local Green Space in the Swale Draft Local Plan. It was decided that Hinkins Croft could be proposed to be a Local Green Space in the council's Draft Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation response. Councillors agreed to the proposal put forward by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Twaites, all agreed.

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New Floodlight for the Church

New floodlights have been installed at Bredgar pond. The Churchyard has one floodlight installed with the original pond lights, so the Chair has proposed that the PC replace the light in the Churchyard as well. All councillors agreed.

Review Inspection for the Pond Electricity

Following the electrical inspection at Bredgar pond, two issues were identified and will be addressed. A light sensor has been recommended and a quote requested. Proposed by Cllr. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Twaites. All councillors agreed.

Following the electrical inspection, the pond pump stopped working. A new pump was purchased at a cost of £507. The original pump was tested and will be used as a back up.

ROSPA Report

The annual report on the safety of the equipment at Bredgar recreation ground has been received. There are no 'red' issues requiring immediate attention. There may be work required in the future, councillors will monitor the safety of the equipment.

11. Post Office/Farmshop Update

The PC has successfully obtained in principal a Right To Bid on Bredgar Farmshop from SBC. Once the exact boundary has been agreed it will be put in place.

12. Planning Matters

Local Governance Reorganisation

The final decision on the boundaries of the Local Government Reorganisation have been decided. Swale will be affiliated with Ashford and Folkestone & Hythe to become Mid Kent Area.

Current Local Plans will be fed through to the new unitary councils. There will be no Sittingbourne Council but there will be new Councils for Murston, Iwade and Bobbing. Sittingbourne will have one councillor per every 6862 people.

The Swale Local Plan is progressing; responses can be submitted from 10th August until 21st September.

Highsted Park Update

The Highsted Park enquiry report was sent from the inspector to the Secretary of State on 1st July 2026. A decision is expected around 30th September 2026. There is an ongoing opportunity to raise issues which have arisen since the enquiry closed, 5Parishes Group have continued to raise

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significant issues. If it is approved, but a misstep is identified in the process, then there is an opportunity to take it to judicial review.

13. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. Nigel Osmer

Nothing to report.

Cllr. Penny Twaites

Nothing to report.

Cllr. Stephen Parfitt

Fly tipping at Blind Marys Lane has been cleared, but a new lot has been dumped today. Fly tipping still occurs elsewhere in hedges etc. There are ongoing efforts to clear it as it is spotted.

The annual litter pick will take place on Sunday 25th October.

The PC are to monitor SBC street cleaning litter bin collection as it is not being cleared every time.

Cllr. David Priestley

The new pond gate has been installed. Councillors agreed to authorise a small amendment on one side to improve it.

Cllr. Hilary Whitnell

Cllr. Whitnell informed the clerk of her report prior to the meeting: footpaths are partly not in situ due to harvesting. Cllr. Whitnell will check the paths in a couple of weeks.

Cllr. Brian Clarke

Preparations for Remembrance Sunday will be finalised. Councillors all agreed to purchase the wreath.

The annual Christmas tree will be purchased.

14. Community Assets

Consideration of any village premises

Councillors made no further suggestions at the meeting.

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15. Any Other Business

There is no further news on the cricket pavilion renovations.

The frontage of a property in Gore Road has been improved with better access for the vehicles accessing it.

The grubbed out planting in Smiths Orchard by the contractors working for English Rural Homes has not been re-planted. Councillors resolved to write to English Rural Homes to enquire what their intentions are.

The bollard which was removed from the pathway into the Jubilee Garden/Smiths Orchard has not been replaced yet. Cllr. Clarke is to make a formal report to SBC as there has been no answer to the original enquiry.

16. Dates of further meetings

Wednesday 25th November 2026

Wednesday 3rd March 2027

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm.