

**Bredgar Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Held by ZOOM**  
**On Wednesday 19th August 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Chair Cllr. Brian Clarke;  
Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Penny Twaites; Joint Vice Chair Cllr. Jane Ingram;  
Cllr. Mike Day; Cllr. Beverley McCourt; Cllr. Stephen Parfitt and  
Cllr. David Priestley.

**Clerk:** Teresa Hudson

**In Attendance:** SBC Cllr. Andrew Bowles and SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney.

**Members of the Public:** No members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from PCSO Ryan Atherton due to his recent move to pastures new.

**2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interest**

Cllr. Ingram declared an interest in the Post Office and Farmshop.

**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 PC meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were read and formally approved by the Parish Council. They are now available on the Parish website.  
Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley.  
The Minutes will be signed by the Chair.

**5. PCSO Report**

There was no PCSO report at the meeting; however, a report of theft of quad bikes from Primrose Grove has been reported recently along with damage to the fencing at the recreation ground.

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

There were no members of the public present.

**7. Authorisation of Accounts**

**Receipts**

<b>06/05/20</b>	<b>SBC</b>	<b>Precept</b>	<b>5136.50</b>
<b>18/05/20</b>	<b>Matthew Cockell</b>	<b>PO Rent Repaid</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>10/06/20</b>	<b>HMRC</b>	<b>VAT Refund</b>	<b>1617.06</b>
<b>24/06/20</b>	<b>Bredgar Cricket C</b>	<b>Rec Grd Rent</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>27/07/20</b>	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs Charman</b>	<b>Burial plot purchase</b>	<b>150.00</b>

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**Payments**

01/04/20	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
18/04/20	KALC	Subscriptions	321.94
18/04/20	TPJones & Co	Accountant	78.00
18/04/20	BHIB	Insurance	551.08
18/04/20	CPRE	Subscriptions	36.00
20/04/20	Ask a Gardener	Village Maint	140.00
10/05/20	Cllr. Clarke	Zoom	14.39
13/05/20	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/06/20	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
06/06/20	123Reg	Domain Name	14.39
03/06/20	Ask a Gardener	Village Maint	70.00
03/06/20	Bredgar School	Donation	160.00
03/06/20	Cllr. Clarke	Expenses/ Int Auditor	9.50
06/06/20	T. Hudson	Honorarium	375.00
11/06/20	SSE	Pond Electricity	32.24
11/06/20	SBC	Brown Bin	37.00
01/07/20	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
06/07/20	Ask a Gardener	Village Maint	140.00
11/07/20	Shanlec Services	Inst Pond Pump	72.00
18/07/20	M. Belsom & SonLtd	Fence repair	78.00

The clerk reported that a grant of £10 000 from SBC may be forthcoming due to Central Government offering covid 19 grants. It relates to the rating value of the cemetery.

The accounts were duly authorised by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. P. Twaites.

**8. Financial Matters**

**Financial Review**

The July financial review was circulated by email prior to the meeting. It shows the PC in a good position; there are still projects that councilors intend to carry out and the grant would help to bring forward some of the work.

Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley.

**Audit Submitted and Response Received**

The Annual Audit has been completed and a response duly received from the Audit Office.

No matters were brought to the attention of the Council by the audit office.

**Cllr. Monique Bonney joined the meeting at 19.45pm.**

**9. Planning Matters**

Cllr. Twaites reported that an email had been sent to Graham Thomas at SBC Planning Dept. concerning the clearance of the Blind Marys site. There is no update yet. This will be chased.

There were no objections to the proposed application to lower the kerb at 6 Primrose Grove, although councilors did raise aesthetic points which they would like to be considered.

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The Rose Cottage application has been withdrawn.

Cllr. Bonney is to give more clarity on the proposed new national planning changes at the next meeting.

Cllr. Clarke has re submitted Bredgar recreation ground to the Local Green Spaces Local Plan Review. The next meeting is on 1<sup>st</sup> September via Skype.

**10. Reports from Councillors**

**Cllr. Mike Day**

Since venturing out following self-isolation due to the pandemic, Cllr. Day has reported that there has been a noticeable growth in the number of fly tipping episodes around the area. This has become an epidemic, which SBC are struggling to keep up with.

**Cllr. Penny Twaites**

There has been no news on school matters; Cllr. Twaites has completed the School Governor annual paperwork.

**Cllr. Stephen Parfitt**

Cllr. Parfitt confirmed that SBC are fighting a battle with fly tippers but do care about the community. Some issues with miscommunication with contractors resulted in the wrong site being attended. Some sites have needed to be cleared several times due to repeated dumping of rubbish. Councillors asked if any evidence was available but due to the remote sites it is difficult to obtain and there have been few prosecutions.

Cllr. Bonney offered to consult with Kelly Upson at SBC. She stated that the best way to report fly tipping is on the KCC website as the Country Eye app was sometimes vague on the location and a follow up with the reportee was required. The Chair thanked Cllr. Parfitt for his work on this matter.

Some signs that were obscured were reported and cleared.

The ROSPA annual report on the play equipment in the recreation ground showed some medium and low risk issues. There were no high-risk issues. Cllr. Parfitt has begun some maintenance and it is hoped that if the SBC grant is forthcoming, more maintenance can be carried out.

**Cllr. Beverley McCourt**

Due to covid 19 the Thatcher Trust were unable to have their meeting. There is no date for the next meeting. It is hoped that the Year 6 children at Bredgar School received the usual Bible and £50 towards the Secondary School uniform.

**Cllr. Jane Ingram**

There was nothing to report from the Village Hall, as it is not functioning to capacity.

The Farmshop and Post Office are continuing to serve the community although footfall in the farmshop has reduced now that other shops are open following the pandemic.

The new owners are to review the rents for the subleases at the farmshop, although the Post Office Lease runs until 2024 so should not change.

**Cllr. David Priestley**

A working party is to be set up to cut back the willow on the island at the pond and trim the dogwood by the bus stop.

**Cllr. Brian Clarke**

SBC have created area committees in order to diffuse power among members and improve public engagement in decision-making. The representative for this area is Cllr. Monique Bonney. Councillors are able to attend and contribute suggestions for

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available funding. Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. McCourt expressed an interest in becoming involved. Councillors could give areas a voice to develop their own characteristics.

**Cllr. Andrew Bowles** informed the meeting of the SBC plans to identify and protect green areas of particular importance in the area. An email has been circulated.

**11. Village Maintenance**

**Cemetery**

Maintenance of the trees on the boundary of the cemetery is planned. Cllr. Clarke is currently obtaining quotes for the work which involves removal of three trees along the road boundary and thinning of shrubbery around the north and west boundaries with removal of ivy to allow the trees to recover.

**Decking**

The white line on the edge of the decking is to be repainted.

**Pond**

The pump has been replaced. A working party is to clear shrubbery in September. A skip may be required to dispose of the cuttings, as tip trips are limited.

**ROSPA Report**

See Cllr. Parfitt's report

**Grass Cutting**

Consideration was given to separating the War Memorial and Jubilee Gardens grass cutting from the rest of the village maintenance. Problems have arisen with grass cutting being inconsistent and daffodil leaves becoming unsightly. Julie Ann Harris already maintains the flower displays at the Memorial and pond, gratis and with thanks from the PC, and has offered to cut these two areas at £40 per cut. 'Ask a Gardener', who currently maintain the planting areas throughout the village, has offered to quote for the entire grass-cutting contract. After some discussion, councillors agreed to remain with KCC/Blenwood but to ask Mrs. Harris to carry out the occasional cut should it be required in between Blenwood cuts.

**Recreation Ground**

Cllr. Clarke proposed to hire a brown bin to remove the grass cuttings generated by the cricket club. Councillors agreed to ask the cricket club if this was agreeable to them.

**Bredgar Spring Clean**

The Annual Spring Clean, postponed from the spring, is due to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> September. A sub committee of Cllrs Clarke and Parfitt along with Mr. Corden are to organise matters.

**12. Remembrance Day Service**

As the Church is now open, councillors agreed to contact Rev Alan Pinnegar to organise the annual poppy laying ceremony on Remembrance Day.

**13. 'Important Hedgerows and Ponds' Survey**

Cllr. Priestley prepared information identifying shaws, (long copses), which generally appeared to be on the boundaries of Bredgar. It was agreed that these shaws should be checked for existence; cross-referenced with early OS maps and each species of tree photographed and logged with the biological records at Brogdale. These actions would be helpful in preserving the hedgerows, as the evidence is the first reference for planners in any development.

Natural ponds will be noted in the same way.

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Cllr. Priestley is to co ordinate the survey.

**14. HM Prisons & Probation Payback Service**

Councils in Kent have been asked to highlight the Probation Payback service. Cllr. Clarke asked for suggestions of any activity in the village that could be undertaken by the probationers. Several activities were suggested such as litter picking, gardening, clearing footpaths and painting railings or posts. Cllr. Day has previous experience of working with such operations and advised that it was easy for things to go wrong leading to a poor outcome. Councillors decided not to proceed with the idea.

**15. Community Assets**

Designating a local amenity as a Community Asset safeguards the first option to purchase should an owner decide to sell.  
Councillors agreed to revisit Community Assets on a three monthly basis.

**16. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Parfitt noted that numerous water leaks were continuing to occur in Swanton Street. Residents were reporting the leaks and obtaining reference numbers but were frustrated at the lack of action. Bredgar PC wrote a letter of complaint to SE Water, which elicited a response. However, following some work last week, leaks have continued to appear. Cllr. Parfitt has followed up with telephone calls to SE Water and will continue to escalate to senior management if no satisfaction is forthcoming.

**17. Date of the next meeting**

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**