

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting
Held at Bredgar Village Hall
On Wednesday 18th August 2021 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

Members of the Public: No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from KCC Cllr. Richard Lehman and PCSO Lorraine Holmes.

2. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interest

There were no interests to declare.

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 12th May 2021 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. J. Ingram.
The Minutes were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

5. PCSO Report

A report was received by email from PCSO Lorraine Holmes. There were no burglary offences reported in the Bredgar area; an attempted vehicle theft in Silver Street was reported but when patrols attended the suspects had already made off empty handed; no criminal damage offences or fraud offences were reported. There were a couple of reports of nuisance vehicles around the local area. A drop-in surgery will be held in Bredgar Farmshop on Saturday 18th September from 12pm to 1pm.
The PC has written to KALC to request the issue of fly tipping be raised with the Crime Commissioner.

6. Ten Minutes Representation by the Public

No members of the public were present.

7. Authorisation of Accounts

PAYMENTS

01/04/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
05/04/21	KALC	Subs	322.73
05/04/21	Ask a Gardener	Village Maintenance	140.00
09/04/21	TP Jones LLP	Accountant	78.00
26/04/21	Cllr. Clarke	Zoom fee	14.39
27/04/21	BHIB	Insurance	557.14

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01/05/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
02/06/21	Ask a Gardener	Village Maintenance	140.00
01/06/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
02/06/21	123 Reg Domain	Domain name	14.39
02/06/21	UKSign Shop	Brown Bin Stickers	11.93
02/06/21	Cllr. Clarke	Internal Auditor gift	11.00
01/06/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/06/21	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00
15/06/21	SBC	Cemetery Brown bin	40.00
15/06/21	T. Hudson	Honorarium	375.00
17/06/21	Mark Pullen	Work in Rec Grd	40.00
24/06/21	Richard Clack	Fixings for pond signs	3.30
28/06/21	Shanlec Services Limited	Electrician/Pond Pump	96.00
29/06/21	Cllr. Clarke	Pond Pump	47.98
01/07/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/07/21	EDF	Pond electricity	34.00
07/07/21	Ask a Gardener	Village Maintenance	140.00
13/07/21	ICO	Data Prot Certification	35.00
21/07/21	CPRE	Subscriptions	36.00
21/07/21	KCC	Grass Cutting	849.76
26/07/21	ROSPA	Play Inspection	86.40
27/07/21	KCC	Grass Cutting	678.42
01/08/21	Bredgar Farmshop	PO Rent	150.00
01/08/21	EDF	Pond Electricity	34.00
05/08/21	Ask a Gardener	Village Maintenance	140.00

RECEIPTS

20/04/21	SBC	Precept	5136.00
09/06/21	SSE	Refund from SSE	34.50
24/06/21	Bredgar Cricket Club	Rec Grd Rent	50.00
24/06/21	HMRC	VAT refund	867.67

There were no questions on the accounts presented.
Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. D. Priestley.

8. **Finance and Policies**

Policy for usage of the Recreation Ground

Councillors discussed whether a policy for the use of facilities at Bredgar recreation ground was required following a summer of exceptional usage due to covid restrictions. Groups such as tots football and pilates have been using the space causing local residents to complain about inappropriate parking in the village. Councillors decided that it would be useful to have a simple policy where groups would be expected to inform the PC prior to organising their activity and that they may be charged a fee. Liability insurance would also be required. Cllr. Priestley has drawn up a draft policy, which will be circulated to all councillors prior to approval at the next PC meeting.

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Financial Review – August 2021

The financial review for the previous three months was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Councillors asked if Julie Harris charged for the gardening work carried out in the village. The Chair informed them that he had asked Julie to send in an invoice but none had been received. Councillors are grateful for the work Julie does. Proposed by Cllr. B. Clarke, seconded by Cllr. S. Parfitt.

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.

9. Remembrance Day Service

It is hoped that a more normal service will resume this year. The Chair will contact Steve Wood and Rev Alan Pinnegar to discuss the service. A wreath will be ordered as usual to place at the Memorial in remembrance of villagers who gave their lives for their country.

10. Village Matters

Cemetery water availability

Following a request for a fresh water supply in Bredgar cemetery, the Chair enquired with SE Water: the cost for a quote is £81. Councillors agreed to obtain a quote.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Ingram, seconded by Cllr. P. Twaites.

The Chair and clerk will proceed with the application for a quote.

Electricity charging point

Cllrs. Clarke and Parfitt attended a seminar on installing electric charging points in villages. KCC have a project, which PCs can sign up to, with success more likely if funding can be added. The Chair is obtaining quotes for tarmacking the area opposite Bredgar School with a view to putting one space for an electric charging point there. It would generate an income for the PC. Cllr. Ingram will also discuss the options with the village hall committee to ascertain whether the village hall car park could accommodate one.

Cllr. Clarke proposed to register with KCC to get on the list, seconded by Cllr. J. Ingram, all councillors agreed to the proposal.

Litter picking day

A litter pick is scheduled to take place on Sunday 12th September, starting at the village hall. It will operate similarly to last year; a risk analysis has been produced which will be submitted to SBC this week. Participants are asked to sign up with the PC prior to the day or on the day. Last year's pick resulted in 61 bags being collected.

Pond improvements

Following an episode where lack of oxygen in Bredgar pond resulted in approximately 80 kg of fish perishing, an air pump and two filters have been installed in the pond and over a period of several weeks the oxygen levels are much improved. Ongoing

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maintenance will be required on the equipment with pump filters being changed every six months, etc. Dick Clack has helped enormously with the work including building a cabinet for an air pump.

A working party will tidy around the pond in late September.

Review of records archive

Historical Bredgar documents currently being stored at Chantry House are to be sorted and archived appropriately by councillors and the clerk.

Extra bin at Swanton Street/The Meadows

An extra litter bin has been requested by a parishioner to be placed in Swanton Street near The Meadows, as rubbish is frequently deposited in the lay by. The clerk is to ask SBC if they will supply one.

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The nation will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year on 2nd to 4th June. The PC would like to join in with the celebrations and plan to involve the village in an event yet to be decided.

Ideas for a memorial in Jubilee Garden are also welcome.

11. Planning Matters

Landscape assessment – update

Following a successful tour of the area with Emma Rouse of Wyvern Heritage to produce a landscape assessment, no contact has been received. It is thought Ms Rouse may be unwell; therefore the PC will look at other sources to produce the report.

Clearance on One Acre site

The site has still to be cleared. Cllr. Twaites is to continue to chase SBC.

Draft Planning Enforcement Strategy and Charter Response

The PC submitted a response to SBC Planning's Draft Planning Enforcement Strategy and Charter consultation.

Highsted Park Planning Application Response

Councillors have used Parish News, PC website, village noticeboards and Facebook Group to inform residents of the planning application now open for comments until 18th September known as Highsted Park. It is a significantly large planning application, which the PC plans to make every effort to respond as the voice of parishioners. The application is not in the Local Plan or draft LP. The PC will respectfully decline to meet with Quinn, the applicant, as councillors have attended their webinars and engaged otherwise to try to understand the proposal. The PC continues to engage with 5 Parishes and will work with other local villages that plan to meet to discuss the proposal.

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12. Recreation Ground

ROSPA Report

Cllrs. Clarke and Parfitt have studied the ROSPA report and will address the minor points. The cricket pavilion is to be replaced in the near future and councillors agreed this would be a good opportunity to look into refreshing all the play equipment.

New pavilion update

Diagrams for the new proposed cricket pavilion were circulated to councillors a while ago, which included a proposed new entrance in Wrens Rd. The plan was agreed in principle.

13. Highways Improvement Plan

A resident is concerned about the state of the roads in Bredgar caused by tractors etc. travelling on the narrow roads. Further damage to property has occurred at The Street/Bexon Lane junction. KCC have been asked for advice on the issue of use of unsuitable routes by large vehicles. This is a difficult problem to deal with as the economy needs be supported, which means that local companies will sometimes use smaller roads to continue their businesses. There are no designated routes documented by KCC, but at a strategic level they have adopted a Freight Action Plan that has a specific objective to try and tackle the routing of HGV's. The intention is to encourage the use of strategic roads for the transportation of goods across the county to minimise the impact on communities.

All parishioners are encouraged to report potholes on the KCC website after which they are obliged to follow up.

The PC has worked on the Highways Improvement Plan form and will add a note concerning the suggested routes for large vehicles travelling through the village. It is felt that there is a need to review width and weight restrictions around Bredgar. Cllrs. Clarke and McCourt are to complete the form.

14. Reports from Councillors

Cllr. P. Twaites

Nothing to report.

Cllr. D. Priestley

Nothing to report

Cllr. B. McCourt

Nothing to report.

Cllr. S. Parfitt

Cllr. Parfitt stated that fly tipping continues to be a problem. Some sites have been cleared but if chemical waste is dumped it takes longer to clear, as it has to be inspected. Overflowing street bins are now emptied twice a week instead of once. A resident has requested noise screening from the M2 as their property is very close to the motorway.

Speedwatch will operate at 7am on Friday 20th August.

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Cllr. J. Ingram

Cllr. Ingram was pleased to report that local farmers were leaving wide and clear footpaths for walkers in their fields.

Cllr. M. Day

Cllr. Day informed the meeting that a resident had approached him with a query on the proposed disabled parking space opposite the Church. There are already two disabled spaces in the group of four spaces. Cllr. Day explained that the parish councillors have no jurisdiction over the issue as it is dealt with by KCC. The Chair stated that was the correct response.

Cllr. B. Clarke

Cllr. Clarke is to engage a different painter to repaint the white line on the decking. The brown bin in the recreation ground is not working well so a different solution to the grass cutting waste maybe required.

The cricket club and residents of Bush House worked together to clear undergrowth on the boundary of the two areas with the assistance of Cllr. Clarke and Mark Pullen. The cricket club plans to erect a new fence.

Cllr. Clarke is continuing to try to obtain quotes to repair the damaged wall in Jubilee Garden. There is a shortage of materials at present but it is hoped the wall will eventually be repaired.

A blacksmith has visited to confirm the requirements for the repairs to the railings at the cemetery. There is no date as yet for completion of the work.

A request is to be made for a post box in Silver Street. Councillors had no objections. The PC has submitted a response to the KCC bus service improvement plan consultation.

Cllr. Clarke plans to attend the Western Area Committee on 31st August. To request funding of a review of the Conservation Area, as the last one was 20 years ago, and to assist local attraction, Bredgar and Wormshill Railway, to obtain brown tourist signs. All councillors agreed.

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

There was no other business to report.

17. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 22.10pm.