

Bredgar Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Bredgar School
On Tuesday 22nd March 2016 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.

Members of the public: There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from SBC Cllr. Monique Bonney and PCSO Sheron Davies.

2. Declaration of Members' personal and prejudicial interests.

There were no declarations to report.

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 declarations of any intention to record or film the PC meeting by anyone.

4. Ten minutes representation by the public.

There were no members of the public present.

5. Report from PCSO.

PCSO Sheron Davies submitted a report to the clerk prior to the meeting in which she apologised for the lack of attendance at PC meetings stating that shift patterns and availability of a vehicle impact on attendance. Sheron currently manages three wards and each has their own issues. As far as she is aware, Bredgar has no burning issues but there have been a few incidents that could be linked together. Any information from the public is welcome to prevent a spike in crime in the area. Sheron often uses the bus service to Bredgar and is always happy to meet parishioners in the Farmshop café for a catch up and cup of tea. Sheron is also liaising with Neighbourhood Watch in Bredgar.

6. Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 13th January 2016 and matters arising from these Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous PC meeting held on 13th January 2016 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. Clack. They were signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Matters arising are covered by the agenda.

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7. Authorisation of Accounts.

The PC approved the accounts as set out in the meeting's agenda. Proposed by Cllr. G. Kite, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack. There were no questions.

8. Recreation Ground.

- **Ceremony**

An event to mark the purchase of the recreation ground by the Parish Council is to take place.

Councillors suggested combining the ceremony with the School Fete on 21st May at the recreation ground. All Swale and Borough councillors who gave donations in the form of grants will be invited.

The PC formally approved the use of the recreation ground for the School Fete.

- **Plaques**

Plaques commemorating the donations for the purchase of the recreation ground will be displayed.

- **Notice board**

The PC resolved to purchase a large notice board in which to display the commemorative plaques, legal notice and any other notices required. The clerk is to investigate costs.

9. Finance Matters.

- **Recreation Ground purchase update**

The purchase of the recreation ground was completed on 21st January 2016.

The Chair has submitted the completed monitoring forms relative to the donations received.

- **PC Financial Review**

The clerk informed councillors that at the end of the financial year, the current account will show £2217.87 and the investment account will show £6991.31, total £9209.18 credit. Councillors were satisfied with the reserves and working capital.

- **New Audit Legislation**

The clerk explained that Parish Councils were automatically opted in to the Sector Led Body, which appoints an auditor annually. The PC resolved not to opt out of this arrangement.

- **Change of Accountant**

The PC has changed accountant to Thirsk CC Association, which will save £121 per year.

- **Precept**

Having maintained the precept for the financial year 2016 to 2017 at £9,500, the current band D rate is £33.08 compared to £33.31 in 2015 to 2016.

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- **Grass Cutting contract**

The clerk showed councillors a map that represents the grass cutting areas of the village and explained that the PC is responsible for the cemetery, Churchyard and front of school, plus 40% of the costs for cutting the bank opposite Bush House/Silver Street. The remainder is paid for by a combination of SBC, Amicus Horizon, English Rural Housing and KCC. SBC manage the entire grass cutting and the PC pays for their part.

Cllr. Clarke attended a meeting where it was stated that KCC hold the legal responsibility for grass cutting and that SBC are returning the service to KCC to cut costs. KCC are likely to reduce the service to mandatory cutting over the next four years and are encouraging Parish Councils to take on the management of these types of services. Councillors resolved to await further information on the matter.

10. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr. B. Clarke

Cllr. Clarke has attended a number of meetings: Swale West Meeting, Swale Rural Forum, Mid Kent Downs Steering Group and Swale Area Committee and reported back all relevant information by e-mail to councillors. At the Swale West meeting, Cllr. Baldock proposed turning certain roads into 'Quiet Lanes'. Councillors discussed the issue but were not keen to pursue the idea for Bredgar at present.

Cllr Clarke is to attend website training next week.

Cllr. D. Clack

Cllr. Clack is to replace the light at the pond.

Cllr. D. Priestley

Bredgar pond is in good health with no apparent rat activity. A litter pick was carried out at the pond with a large bag of rubbish collected. One railing has come adrift at the pond. Cllr. Kite will investigate solutions.

Local metal detectorist, Jon Bartlett, has offered unpublished photographs of the Bredgar die for the Parish website.

Cllr. G. Kite

The Swanton Street Pathway is reported under item 13.

Cllr. S. Hickman

Cllr. Hickman stated that Tesco were allocating funds to local projects and wondered if the pond decking would qualify? Cllr. Clarke is to investigate.

Cllr. M. Pullen

Cllr. Pullen asked if the felled trees at The Hollies were to be replaced. They will be replaced with smaller trees.

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Cllr. Pullen asked if restoration work on Gibbons Barn had stopped? As a listed building, should the work be monitored by SBC? The Chair is to follow the matter up with SBC.

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Andy Dwyer, is resigning. Richard Philips is to take his place. The village hall has benefitted from new lighting. The posts to the gates at the Churchyard need replacing, as the gates do not shut properly. The cemetery is looking well tended; primroses have been planted. There will be new tenants at The Sun pub at the end of April.

Cllr. P. Twaites

The school children continue to produce good results. The land used for parking cars opposite the school has a few potholes; one member of staff has sprained an ankle tripping on a pothole. Cllr. Clack offered to inspect the surface.

Cllrs Twaites and Clarke attended a Farming Presentation by Goathams & Sons. The Cllrs reported that it was an interesting evening showing the way farming works today and the issues faced by farmers. The company is investing in land and equipment for producing apples and pears across the county to compete with Europe.

Cllr Twaites also attended a Chairman's training day, which incorporated useful sessions in chairing and dealing with the public.

11. Planning Matters.

• **Blind Marys**

The appeal on one site at Blind Marys has yet to go live; the action will not be enforced until it is known whether the appeal will go ahead.

The Chair is to follow this up.

• **Dukes Shaw**

Three Parish councillors attended a site meeting with SBC and the applicant. A further meeting will take place on 7th April when a decision will be made.

• **KSP Update**

The application has yet to go live and may not happen due to the change of ownership of the site.

• **Vigo Cottage**

Due to the collapse of the building during renovation, a new application to rebuild is expected. The Chair is to follow this up with SBC planning dept.

• **Downsells Barn**

The PC has assisted in securing cessation of works to create an unauthorised garden on agricultural land.

• **Parsonage Farm Grainstore**

A response to the planning application has been sent from the PC and a result is awaited.

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12. Highways.

- **Speedwatch**

Eight parishioners have volunteered to take part in Speedwatch in Bredgar. Training will take place in April after which sites will be chosen to operate the equipment on loan from Tunstall PC.

- **Swanton Street Gateway**

This issue is ongoing.

- **Drain cleaning outside Farmshop**

The blocked drains outside the Farmshop and drains outside Bush House have been reported and await clearance.

13. Village Matters.

- **Clean for the Queen**

Cllr. Clack and Clarke organised a Clean for the Queen session along with Bredgar School. Several children and their parents took part and collected sacks of rubbish from the school grounds, the village hall grounds and the recreation ground. Also, councillors and residents carried out a litter pick in their own streets.

- **Pond Decking Repairs**

The PC currently has promises of donations/grants totaling £4500 towards the costs of repairing the decking. Cllr. Clack is to obtain two more quotes and then it is hoped work will begin soon.

- **Swanton Street Pathway**

Cllr. Kite has approached a local tradesman regarding the creation of the Permissive Footpath at Swanton Street. He is willing to take on the task once the initial hedge has been breached. The Chair is to seek further legal advice from NALC.

- **Proposed bollards outside Post Office**

Cllr Clack is awaiting a quote for the work.

- **Broadband update**

Contract One is up and running with numbers in excess of 40 residents choosing to install Superfast Broadband. Most customers are pleased with the broadband speed now being obtained. However, Contract Two will not help anyone else in Bredgar. Cllr. Clarke is liaising with residents in Swanton Street and Hawks Hill Lane privately and may be able to assist in personal adaptations.

- **Parish Council website**

A problem with uploading events and photographs onto the website has been reported but will not be resolved until new software is available on 21st April. Cllr. Clarke is to attend

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website training from Hugo Fox Solution after which the PC will compare website providers.

- **New Signage for Dog Fouling and Ducks Crossing**

The PC resolved not to purchase new signage due to lack of funds.

14. Proposed new policies.

Village Memorial Bench Policy

Councillors discussed points for a Memorial bench policy; Cllr Priestley is to collate ideas and produce a bench policy, which will be circulated by e-mail and decided upon by all councillors. Once approved, parishioners will have a clear idea on how to proceed with donating a bench in memory of their loved ones.

Councillor Training Policy

Councillors resolved not to have a formal training policy but to attend training sessions when necessary.

15. Cemetery Costs Review.

With the exception of scattering of ashes, which will remain at £85, councillors resolved to raise the cemetery costs in line with SBC from 1st April 2016. Proposed by Cllr. S. Hickman, seconded by Cllr. D. Clack.

16. Mobile Library.

Due to limited use by parishioners, the PC resolved not to become involved in the campaign to keep the mobile library.

Books are available at Bredgar Post Office for 30p each, all proceeds go to The Wisdom Hospice.

17. Correspondence to the Parish Council.

- **Swanton Street lay-by**

There is nothing to report at present.

18. Any Other Business.

Open Meetings

The PC discussed the need for an Open Meeting each year. Unless there is a specific issue to discuss with parishioners, it was decided that there would not be an Open Meeting in March. Members of the public are, and always have been, invited to every PC meeting and if an important issue arises there will be an Open Meeting to deal with it.

HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative Medal

A sample medal has been received by the clerk; councillors decided not to purchase any medals on this occasion.

19. Next Meeting Date - AGM.

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The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm in Bredgar School.

Councillor Resignations

The PC has received two resignations, both for personal reasons: Cllr. Mark Pullen has tendered his resignation at the end of this financial year; Cllr. Graham Kite has agreed to remain until a suitable replacement is found. The PC expressed their thanks and great appreciation for the valued work carried out by both councillors and will miss their local knowledge and enthusiasm for the village. Cllr. Pullen has offered to continue to take charge of the cemetery including putting out the bin each fortnight for which the PC is very grateful.