



BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Bredhurst CE Primary School,
on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 6.30pm**

Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Borough and Parish Cllr Malcolm Greer, Cllr Charlie Hewitt, Bex Ratchford (Clerk), Borough Cllr Derek Butler, Borough Cllr Wendy Hinder

Public: 10

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr David Hales and County Cllr Paul Carter.

2. Declarations of interests

Cllr Carr declared an interest in item 7. Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 11.

3. Appointment of new clerk/personnel issues

Thanks were given and a presentation was made to the previous clerk. The new clerk was introduced and it was noted that there had been an excellent selection of candidates for the position, and cllrs were pleased with the appointment. Personnel issues will be discussed with the new clerk. Congratulations were given to Cllr Jones for her receiving the British Empire Medal and Cllr Jones thanked those who nominated her.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2015

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed and dated by the Chair.

5. Maidstone Police briefing

PCSO Adlington gave the crime report for the ward. There have been a number of crimes in Boxley but none in Bredhurst. The issue of dead horses being left by the roadside was raised as there have been many incidents across Kent – nothing has been heard locally, but this will be looked into for next meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

6.1. AP1: the church has confirmed it would like a litter bin and one has been assigned by MBC.

Action 1: Cllr Greer to pursue this.

6.2. AP2: residents were informed of the schedule of works for vegetation management.

6.3. AP3: see item 12.

6.4. AP4: see item 16.1.

6.5. AP5: see item 16.3.

6.6. AP6: the VH trustees had declined a meeting with BPC.

7. Vegetation management update

Cllr Carr left the room for this item as her husband is the chosen hedge cutting contractor. The weed spraying has been done but will be an ongoing contract as there is years of neglect to rectify. It would be good to get residents involved. Although the tree in Dunn Street still needs clearing, it was the electricity company who cut it down and left it, and authorisation is needed to remove it. Apart from this, the only thing remaining to be done is the playing field; the date for this is to be confirmed, as drier weather is needed. **Action 2: Cllr Greer to pursue this.**

8. Maintenance of drains

The drains outside the church have been done as a goodwill gesture by KCC, but not fully cleared as there is some confusion over who is responsible. Drainage guidelines state that the culverts at the bottom of The Street are the landowner's responsibility. **Action 3: Cllr Jones to speak to the landowner.** KCC will do the jetwash once the drains have been cleared. A resident with the necessary machinery will be asked to help with the digging out, providing the landowner is in agreement. A schedule of works has been requested from KCC so the PC can monitor the issue.

9. Road sweeping update

A mechanical road sweeper came on Saturday, which proved very successful, showing a notable difference in the village. This needs to be ongoing. Although cllrs cleaned paths on Friday and Saturday, they still need further attention. Resident participation could be enlisted with more publicity, and it is hoped that MBC will bring a path cleaner. The grass bank in Dunn Street needs cutting back; it was suggested to do this in the summer. Thanks were given to Cllr Greer for organising the road sweeping and securing a competitive rate.

10. Re-surfacing of KH49

The British Horse Society has offered £200 for resurfacing KH49. The PC needs to decide if the resurfacing should proceed and if so, how it will be funded. A quote has already been received for KH49. It was **agreed** to get more quotes and also a quote for KH50 (subject to landowner approval), in the hope that this would prove more cost effective. KCC could recommend companies. **Action 4: Cllr Carr to get information on contractors from KCC. Action 5: Clerk to get quotes, with assistance from Cllr Greer.**

11. Proposed changes to 'The Cut' (unnamed lane behind Pickwick Motors)

Cllr Jones left the room for this item as she lives in this location. Cllr Carr took the Chair. Funding has been allocated from KCC to make this road one-way from Dunn Street to Forge Lane. All residents in 'The Cut' have been approached and all were in favour. The proposal would stop vehicles exiting on to Dunn Street which is a dangerous junction. The PC might have to fund two signs, but this would cost less than £200.

12. Playground repairs update

The contractor has visited the site and made some recommendations. Most of the work will be covered in the original quote but there are two different options for the Burma Bridge, which would add to the cost. It was **agreed** to meet with the contractor on site, go through the items and get a revised quote. **Action 6: Cllrs Jones and/or Greer to pursue this and report back.**

13. Hiring out the playing field

A request to hire the playing field had been received. Such activities in the past have not been popular due to noise and parking issues. It was **agreed** to refuse the request. **Action 7: Clerk to respond.**

14. KCC consultation re mobile library service

It was **agreed** that this would be circulated electronically and cllrs would respond via email. **Action 8: Clerk to circulate and cllrs to respond.**

15. Newsletter

It was **agreed** that the Spring newsletter would be issued in mid-March, with items due by the end of February. A request for advertising had been made and it was **agreed** to leave the rate at £5 for 1/16 of a page, payable in advance, with the proviso that the advertiser must be in Bredhurst. **Action 9: Clerk to respond.**

16. Planning

- 16.1. 15/508972 – Land North at Blind Lane – erection of two detached dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping – approved – noted.
- 16.2. 15/505317/OUT – 3 Blind Lane – demolition of existing buildings and construction of four detached chalet bungalows – approved – noted.
- 16.3. MC/14/3045 – Land adjacent to Gramerci, Matts Hill Road, Rainham – enforcement action is being taken, hopefully within the next month.
- 16.4. 16/500781/LBC – Kemsley Street Farm – listed building consent for demolition of garden room to rear of property rebuild new garden room – it was **agreed** that cllrs would look at the plans online and comment, with an extraordinary meeting being held if necessary.
Action 10: Cllrs to review and comment.
- 16.5. MC/14/2395 – Gibraltar Farm – 450 market and affordable dwellings – refused – noted.

17. Finance

- 17.1. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted. It was noted that a £1000 grant has been received from Cllr Carter's Member's Fund and thanks were given to Cllr Greer for applying for this. There is a possible income from contributions from developers, which could be used for KH49.
- 17.2. The precept was **agreed** at £9671.42. **Action 11: Clerk to return precept form.**

Account	Balance as of 31/12/15
Current Account	18.68
Reserve Account	20,725.27
Total	20,743.95

18. Reports from cllrs

Cllrs Jones and Carr had attended two planning training sessions, which were most informative. Cllr Bowring is hoping to attend the parish police liaison meeting on 18th February.

19. Correspondence

- 19.1. The school is not available on the PC's normal meeting nights in April and June (first Wednesdays of the month), and the charge for the village hall would be £90 per meeting. There are other locations available from £7.80 per hour but they are not in the village. The date of the April and June meetings will therefore be changed to the second Wednesday of the month, when the school is available.
- 19.2. A complaint has been received about the conduct of the PC and its perceived lack of support of the village. BPC refutes all allegations made. It was noted that all cllrs put in a lot of time and effort which we know many residents appreciate from positive comments received. A reply will be sent. **Action 12: Clerk and cllrs to draft and send a response.**
- 19.3. There is an emergency road closure in Scragged Oak Road on 4th February.
- 19.4. A public meeting is being held on 11th February regarding the MBC Local Plan.
- 19.5. There is a consultation on a Lower Thames Crossing route.
- 19.6. Notification has been received from MBC that the licence application from the village hall has been withdrawn.
- 19.7. The consultation on the MBC Local Plan and Integrated Transport Strategy will go on the next agenda.

19.8. Options regarding the external audit will go on the next agenda.

19.9. The Keep Britain Tidy initiative could coincide with the next round of culvert cleaning.

Action 13: Cllr Carr to pursue this.

19.10. The KALC membership survey will be forwarded to Cllr Jones. **Action 14: Clerk to forward.**

20. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 2nd March at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.

Signed.....

Date.....