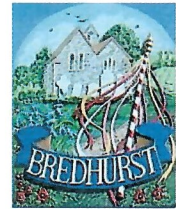


BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Blacksmiths Barn
Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 6.30pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring (Vice Chair), Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Lee Gooda, Cllr Claire Sharp and Borough Cllrs Bob Hinder and Anne Brindle.
 Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO.
 Public – 0.

749. Apologies for Absence
 None received.

750. Declarations of Interest
 None declared.

751. Cllr Resignation and Appointment
 Cllrs accepted Cllr Goodwin-Sword’s resignation and thanked her for her service. Cllr Bowring was elected as Vice-Chair, Cllr Gooda joins the Personnel Committee and Cllr Sharp was elected as the KALC representative. Clerk to advertise the Parish Cllr vacancy and inform Unity Trust Bank of the resignation.
AP1: Clerk to deal with MBC and UTB.

752. Minutes of 1st February 2023 Parish Council Meeting
 The minutes were agreed by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

753. Police Briefing
 Nothing to report.

754. Matters Arising (for information only)
Action Points from 01-02-23

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 01-02-23
AP1	Amend Conditions of Hire.	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP2	Revised HIP to be submitted to KCC.	Cllr Jones	758c
AP3	To apply for funding for King’s Coronation event and bench.	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP4	Purchase bunting for King’s Coronation.	Cllr Jones	759b
AP5	To respond to MBC to reflect comments from BPC meeting.	Clerk	Completed
AP6	To check criteria of notice board grants from MBC.	Clerk	762c
AP7	To send Clerk vacancy advert to KALC.	Clerk	Completed

755. Maidstone Borough Council Elections – 4th May
 For the elections on 4th May, everyone casting their vote in person at a polling station will be asked for photo ID. Most common forms of ID are:

- Full or Provisional Driving Licence
 - Passport
 - Concessionary or Disabled Person’s Bus Pass
 - Oyster 60+ Card, Freedom Pass, Proof of Age Standard Scheme (PASS) Card or Blue Badge
- Out of date documents are acceptable as long as the photo looks like the person voting.***

If someone does not have suitable Voter ID, they may either apply for a postal vote (for which Voter ID does not apply) or they may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC).

AP2: Clerk to email election information to residents.

The full election timetable is as follows:

- 20th March Election announced.
- 4th April Nominations close.
- 5th April Statement of persons nominated published.
- 17th April Last date for voters to register.
- 18th April Last date to apply for a postal vote.
- 20th April Postal votes issued.
- 25th April Last date to apply for a proxy vote.
- 25th April Last date to apply for a voter authority certificate (VAC).
- 4th May Election Day.
- 5th May Vote count day.
- 9th May Newly elected Councillors take office.
- 10th/24th May First Annual Council Meetings may be held (14 days after the election).

756. Community Playing Field

- a. Playground sign designed and quote is awaited.

AP3: Clerk to place order.

- b. Minor repairs to play equipment to be carried out by Cllr Collins.

757. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. Re-decoration to commence W/C 6th March and should be completed by 9th March.

- b. HSE procedures for the Barn to be checked and updated.

AP4: Cllr Gooda to review existing documents.

758. Village Maintenance

- a. Cllr Jones has spoken with Greene King regarding the number and frequency of accidents (three in just over a year) plus an additional accident on 1st March. They will use smaller delivery vehicles in future which they hope will be easier to manoeuvre. They are also considering a gesture of goodwill payment.

- b. Of the numerous potholes recently reported by Cllr Jones, most have now been completed except for part of Hurstwood Road. KCC ignored potholes which had been marked up from the allotments to St Peter's Church. These potholes have been reported again. KCC have confirmed the work will be booked in ASAP.

- c. Cllr Jones had a meeting with KCC regarding the Highway Improvement Plan recently submitted. Before the options discussed can be considered, a speed survey will be carried out by KCC. Further to the report submitted by Cllr Jones on 16th January, MBC have still not cleared rubbish from behind the bin in Kemsley Street or replaced the old broken bin. A further report has been submitted to MBC.

- d. Cllrs thanked all children who took part in a recent Bredhurst litter pick in aid of the children's cancer charity, My Shining Star. Donations may be made via <https://myshiningstar.co.uk/make-a-donation/>
BPC have arranged a litter pick on Sunday 2nd April at 10.30am meeting at Blacksmiths Community Barn as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

AP5: Cllr Jones to advertise the event.

759. King's Coronation

- a. BPC has been awarded £1850 from Sir Paul Carter's KCC Combined Members Grant towards costs for Bredhurst's King's Coronation celebrations to be held on Sunday 7th May and a commemorative bench. Cllrs **agreed** to form a sub-committee to discuss the event with expenditure to be ratified at April's meeting.
- b. Bunting will be purchased following the sub-committee meeting.
AP6: Cllr Jones to purchase bunting.

760. Access to Recycling Centres

Medway Council have issued a statement confirming from 31st March only residents who pay council tax to Medway are allowed to use Medway recycling centres (Capstone, Hoath Way and Cuxton). Medway Council state this follows a decision by Kent County Council to end their contract with Medway to reimburse costs for Kent residents to use Medway's facilities. This follows the opening of a KCC recycling site at Allington. Medway residents will still be able to use KCC sites at a charge of £10 per visit but there are no reciprocal arrangement for Kent residents to use Medway sites.

761. Planning

- a. Cllr Jones has been in close contact with BPC's barrister who has given recent advice free of charge. Once MBC submits further information requested by the Inspector, BPC will need to employ the legal team who assisted with the Stage 1 Hearing. Following discussions in January with Sir Paul Carter, our KCC Division Member, he has confirmed he will attend the Stage 2 Hearing in May. He and KCC are very supportive of BPC/ALGD. Cllrs **agreed** to re-launch the funding appeal.
AP7: Clerk and Cllr Jones to re-advertise details.
BPC responded to a Government Consultation – Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill / Reforms to National Planning Policy which closes on 2nd March.
- b. No other planning matters received.

762. Finance

- a. Financial statement and bank reconciliation were **received** and **accepted**.

Account	Balance as of 28/02/23
Unity Trust Account	£ 31,800.10

- b. The following Payments made out of and at this meeting were **agreed**. Payments made by BACS unless specified otherwise.

Payments made out of meeting.

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
147	Ecotricity 03226737 - Feb 2023	282.03	56.41	338.44	CGS + SB
DD	Onecom – Feb 2023	29.46	5.89	35.35	SB & CS
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd – Feb 2023	8.77	1.75	10.52	SB & CS

Payments authorised at the meeting.

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
148	Clerks Salary + Office Rental – Feb 2023	-	-	-	-
149	HMRC – PAYE – Feb 2023	-	-	-	-
150	Every Little Nook - Feb 2023	72.00		72.00	SB & CS
151	Clerk – Cartridge Save - Black Ink	21.44	4.29	25.73	SB & CS
152	Ecotricity 03302550 - Feb 2023	162.67	8.13	170.80	SB & CS
153	Lucanus - Blacksmiths Barn Fence Invoice BPC19	263.00		263.00	SB & CS
154	Lucanus - Blacksmiths Barn Fence Invoice BPC20	294.20		294.20	SB & CS

* VAT to be reclaimed

Cllrs Bowring and Sharp **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

- c. An enquiry has been made to MBC asking for details of notice board grants, awaiting reply.
AP8: Clerk to follow up with MBC.
Contractor to inspect existing board to see if it can be repaired.
AP9: Cllr Jones to contact contractor.
- d. Cllrs informed that MBC have agreed the 2023/4 precept set by BPC.

763. Reports from Parish Councillors

No reports received.

764. Reports from Borough and County Councillors (if present)

Cllr Hinder provided an update regarding a recent meeting arranged to discuss the Lower Thames Crossing and related issues.

765. Correspondence

A resident has requested the use of the Community Field on 8th July to hold a village fete with the focus on children's activities. Cllrs **agreed** on condition that the organiser carries out a risk assessment and provides Public Liability Insurance details to BPC. Clerk to send booking form and confirmation to the resident.

AP10: Clerk to contact the resident.

766. Closed Session – Staffing

Closing date for the Clerk vacancy is 3rd March. Personnel Committee to **agree** date to review applications and conduct interviews.

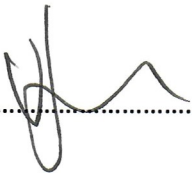
Cllrs **agreed** a budget of £800 for the purchase of a replacement laptop and data transfer.

AP11: Cllr Jones to arrange purchase.

767. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

768. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 5th April at 6.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....5/4/23