

## **Bredhurst Parish Council – Annual Report**

### **1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Bredhurst Parish Council started the year without a permanent clerk, and we were very grateful to Steve Hill, a previous BPC Clerk, for standing in as locum clerk. He supported BPC until the end of July when Melanie Fooks was appointed as Clerk. She had worked for BPC many years ago and all Cllrs were very pleased to welcome her back. In the few months she has been with us, she has made huge improvements to the running of the council.

Cllrs Lee Gooda and Dan Fifield retired from the council after many years of hard work. BPC welcomed two new BPC Cllrs, Toby Rowe and Greg Davis. Greg was also elected as Vice-Chair.

Further to MBC's vote in March 24 to adopt the Local Plan, led by the Conservative administration, BPC decided to seek legal advice on the prospects of a judicial review. Much of the year was spent on fundraising and legal meetings. This culminated in a High Court Hearing in September where the judge found against BPC which meant the development of 2000 houses will proceed. Since BPC's Against Lidsing Campaign started over five years ago, approximately £102,000 was donated to support the legal battle. Although bitterly disappointed with the outcome, BPC did everything possible to stop the development and would like to thank everyone who supported the campaign. We must now work with MBC and the promoter of the site to try and lessen the impact on Bredhurst.

We welcomed the Hazlitt Touring Company to Blacksmiths Barn in August for an open-air performance of The Three Musketeers. The performance was extremely popular and quickly sold out. This year's production of The Wind in the Willows will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> August in the Community Field which will triple the capacity.

BPC were pleased to receive a grant from KCC Cllr Paul Carter towards the cost of a new noticeboard in Hurstwood Road. Due to two separate incidents of damage to the allotment fencing, insurance claims fully paid for new fencing to be erected. The bench in the centre of the village was beyond repair so that was also replaced this year.

BPC worked closely with KCC Highways and supported their suggestion to introduce a 20mph limit in Hurstwood Road which has now been implemented.

Blacksmith Barn continues to be well used, and income generated from hire charges has covered all expenditure and allowed for the CCTV and alarm system to be upgraded.