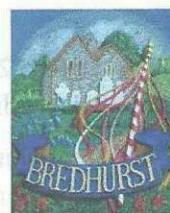


BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Blacksmiths Barn

Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Greg Davis (Vice Chair), Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Sue Harwood, Cllr Ian Hopson, Cllr Claire Sharp.
Melanie Fooks – Clerk & RFO
One member of the public

371/26 Apologies for Absence
Apologies accepted from MBC Cllr Thompson.

372/26 Declarations of Interest
None.

373/26 Motion to exclude the press and public from all items in the Closed Session.
Cllr Davis proposed, seconded by Cllr Harwood agreed by all Cllrs.

374/26 Minutes of the 10th December 2025 Parish Council Meeting and Closed Session.
The minutes were agreed by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

375/26 Matters Arising (for information only)
Action Points from 10-12-25

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item on 14/01/26
AP1	Advertise and circulate Parish Councillor Vacancy	Clerk	Ongoing
AP2	Instruct Lucanus Services to remove a hazardous tree	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP3	Contact Lee and Sons to install a gate at BVH.	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP4	Instruct Boyds to replace bulkhead light and replace faulty lights at the top of steps BVH	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP5	Request quotes for work identified in FRA for BVH	Clerk	Ongoing
AP6	Submit response to planning app 25/504882/FULL.	Clerk	Completed
AP7	Staff appraisal – circulate dates to Personnel Committee	Clerk	Ongoing
AP8	Forward designs of the proposed road narrowing in Dunn Street Road to KCC Cllr	Clerk	Completed
AP9	Inform Bredhurst School of possible funding for a Lollipop person.	Clerk	Completed
AP10	Respond to Rainham MP Naushabah Khan MP	Clerk	Completed

There was a short public session.

376/26 Police
The following crimes were reported during December/January.
20/12/25 - Between 00:01 on Saturday 20th of December and 19:45 on Tuesday 23rd of December in Blacksmiths Court. Somebody stole the contents of a parcel. It was empty when delivered. Crime Report No. 46/219624/25 - Posted 25/12/2025.
22/12/25 – Two young lads were seen causing damage to Bredhurst Church Charity Shed. BPC understands the Police were informed.
07/01/26 - Between 23:00 and 23:20 in Dunn Street. Somebody stole a blue Suzuki, GC51***, from a driveway. Crime Report No. 46/3808/26 - Posted 11/01/2026.

10/01/26 – White and black Jack Russell cross was seen dumped on Dunn Street at the crossroads with Lidsing Road. It took volunteers 8 hours to capture the dog who was handed to the dog warden.

377/26 Community Playing Field

- a. Cllrs **noted** weekly and quarterly inspection reports for December and January and actions required.
- b. BPC have been granted £5000 from MBC for Strategically Important Play Areas. This will be used to replace the safety surface under the junior swings with the PC making up the shortfall of £3850.00 which is included in the 26/27 budget. It was suggested that the Clerk try and secure additional funding towards this project. The work will take place in the new financial year.

AP1: Clerk to investigate additional funding.

Item 381 a/b/c was taken at this point in the meeting for the benefit of the member of public present.

378/26 Blacksmiths Barn

- a. The Blacksmiths Barn budget was considered and approved. The capital budget does not form part of the precept. The Barn is self-funding through its hire income. 2026/27 Income anticipated at £10,500 with expenditure at £9,842.00.

- b. Other Barn matters:

- Cllrs approved a pay increase of £2.50ph for the Blacksmith Barn's gardener. Cllr Hopson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sharp with all in favour.

AP2: Clerk to inform gardener.

- Cllrs agreed to carry over a hire fee for a cancelled regular hire to February.

AP3: Clerk to notify hirer.

379/26 Bredhurst Village Hall

- a. **Received and noted** BVH's accounts from 1st December 2025 – 30th December 2025.

- b. Other Village Hall matters:

- The Clerk to update signatories on the UTB bank account to include all Cllrs.

AP4: Clerk to contact UTB.

- Cllr Davis asked if the fire doors could be fixed so that they don't trip the electrics when opened. The Clerk explained they are not meant to be opened, particularly when music is being played, it stops neighbours being subject to excessive noise.

- Cllr Davis said website booking system cannot be utilised and asked if it can be highlighted that booking enquiries should be made directly with the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed this.

AP5: Clerk to amend website.

- Cllr Jones confirmed the bar and shed were cleared of gas bottles, kegs and bar equipment. The Britvic dispenser remains. This will be removed shortly. Thanks were given to Cllr Hopson for overseeing the clearance.

AP6: Clerk to contact Britvic.

380/26 Village Maintenance

No village maintenance matters.

381/26 Planning

- a. Cllr Jones attended the Lidsing Garden Stakeholder meeting on 12th January. The consultation produced 217 comments, which will be published on MBC's website. Officers will include relevant comments in the final SPD draft. It will then go to the next MBC PAC then to Cabinet.

- b. 25/505221/EIASCO EIA Scoping Opinion - Proposed development for a hybrid planning application which will comprise a detailed application of 225 dwellings and an outline application for up to 1,775 dwellings and 14ha of employment with local centre and health, education, retail and leisure infrastructure with associated landscaping with access only fixed. Location: Lidsing Garden Community Land North of the M2 Lidsing, Lidsing, Boxley.

Cllrs agreed that BPC has nothing further to add at this stage.

AP7: Clerk to submit comment.

c. Consultation on proposed upgrade to existing radio base station installation at CTIL 11415425 Paris Farm, Kemsley Street, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3LS. **No Objection.**

AP8: Clerk to respond to consultation.

382/26 Finance

- a. The financial statements and bank reconciliations for P/E 31st December 2025 were **agreed** by all Cllrs and signed by the Chair.
- b. All payments made out of and at meeting were **agreed** by Cllrs.
Cllrs Sharp and Hopson were nominated to authorise forthcoming payments.

Payments made out of meeting.

Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
Lloyds Corporate Multipay Card – December	117.19	21.50	138.69	GD/SH
Forvis Mazars - External Audit Inv.	315.00	63.00	378.00	GD/SH
Lucanus Services – Removal of hazardous tree in community playing field	485.00	-	485.00	GD/SH
Nest Pensions – December Contributions	-	-	-	GD/SH
Clerk's Salary and Office Rental – December	-	-	-	GD/SH
HMRC – December Contributions	-	-	-	GD/SH
County Fire Protection – Fire Extinguisher Inspection + Fire Blanket	70.70	14.14	84.84	GD/SH
EDF Energy – Barn December Bill	234.05	11.70	245.75	GD/SH
Rachel Ford - December gardening (2hours)	55.00	-	55.00	GD/SH
Returned Barn Hire Deposit – Ref 81-25/26	100.00	-	100.00	GD/SH
UTB Monthly Service Charge – (PC)	6.00	-	6.00	GD/SH
UTB Monthly Service Charge – (Barn)	6.00	-	6.00	GD/SH

Payments made at meeting

Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
Onecom Ltd – Barn Internet – Inv.7729834	38.69	7.74	46.43	CS/IH
Lloyds Corporate Multipay Card – January	14.49	-	14.49	CS/IH
KCC – Internal Audit – Visit 1 – Inv. 9000182842	401.00	80.20	481.20	CS/IH
Scribe Accounts – Monthly Subscription – January 26	37.00	7.40	44.40	CS/IH
BCTec Ltd – Microsoft 365 Subscription – December Inv. 32767	31.30	6.26	37.56	CS/IH
BCTec Ltd – Tech Support December – Inv. 32973	9.35	1.87	11.22	CS/IH
Savills – Community Playing Field – Q4 rental	137.50	-	137.50	CS/IH
UTB Monthly Service Charge Jan 26 – (PC)	6.00	-	6.00	CS/IH
UTB Monthly Service Charge Jan 26 – (Barn)	6.00	-	6.00	CS/IH
V Jones - Barn Cleaning Materials	11.67	2.33	14.00	CS/IH
V Jones – Refreshments - Lidsing Consultation	19.80	-	19.80	CS/IH
Lucanus Services – Inv. BPC110 – Taking down Xmas Lights at Barn	25.00	-	25.00	CS/IH

* VAT to be reclaimed.

- c. **Received** and **accepted** Lloyds Corporate Multipay Card Expenditure for December.
- d. **Noted** receipts and payments for all accounts for the period 01/12/2025 - 31/12/2025.
- e. Cllrs considered the budget proposals for 2026-27. Cllr Davis proposed, seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour of a budget of £44,824 with the main increase being costs for administering the functions of the Parish Council.
- f. Cllrs considered options for the 2026-27 Precept. Cllr Davis proposed, seconded by Cllr Collins with 5 in favour and one abstention to set the Precept at £43,563.00. The shortfall will come from general reserves. This equates to a rise of £56pa per household (based on band D properties). There are 199 properties in Bredhurst. BPC is responsible for the management and upkeep of many local facilities which are central to Village life but require increasing levels of expenditure to ensure they

remain safe, accessible and well maintained. During the past year, BPC has faced exceptional and unavoidable costs. These include the need to obtain legal advice following events which led to the emergency change of management of Bredhurst Village Hall.

AP9: Clerk to submit Precept request to MBC.

- g. KCC's cost for a two-day Internal Audit for 2026/27 is £860.00. Cllr Jones proposed, seconded by Cllr Davis with all in favour to proceed with KCC.

AP10: Clerk to contact KCC.

383/26 Policies and Procedures

- a. Media and Social Media Management Policy. Cllr Jones proposed, seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour to adopt.

384/26 Highways

- a. Despite months of discussions, KCC have now informed BPC it cannot provide the funding they had offered or install new kerbing in Forge Lane outside Blacksmith Barn as the land is not owned by KCC. BPC will clarify with KCC if BPC may carry out this work.

AP11: Clerk to contact KCC.

- b. BPC has voiced its concerns regarding the proposed design of the road narrowing scheme in Dunn Street with KCC Cllr Spencer Dixon. He and a senior designer will meet with BPC on 22 January.

AP12: Clerk to confirm meeting with Cllr Dixon.

385/26 Speedwatch

Cllr Hopson confirmed that due to bad weather and traffic lights in the village, no sessions were recently held. Future sessions are planned but are weather dependent as rain affects the equipment.

386/26 Councillor/Clerk Training

None.

387/26 Reports from Parish, Borough, and County Councillors (if present)

Cllr Jones has responded to MBC's Landscape Character Assessment consultation on behalf of BPC.

388/26 Correspondence

The following correspondence was **received and noted**:

- KALC News – January 2026
- Kent PCC Winter Newsletter
- Maidstone's Big Day Out
- Medway Local Plan e-bulletin
- KALC Maidstone Committee, Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Plan regulation 18C consultation draft response.

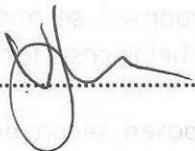
389/26 Closed Session

Personnel matters – Details minuted separately.
Bredhurst Village Hall – Details minuted separately.

390/26 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.23pm with no further business to discuss.

391/25 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.00pm

Signed.......... Date.....12/2/26.....