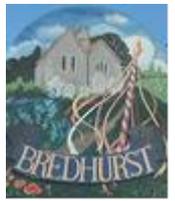


BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Bredhurst CE Primary School, on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Malcolm Greer, Cllr David Hales, Cllr Derek Butler (MBC), Bex Ratchford (Clerk)

Public: 6

160. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Louise Ferne due to work commitments and Cllr Wendy Hinder (MBC) due to an appointment.

161. Declarations of interests

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

162. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2017

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

163. Police briefing

There has been one crime in Bredhurst. A van in The Street had the locks damaged and some tools stolen. A rural officer attended an incident in Scragged Oak Road relating to a catapult being fired at horses. An advertising van parked on the bridge on Lidsing Road has not been moved despite many requests. The police will write and if necessary remove the vehicle, hopefully by the middle of next week. It was **agreed** to write to the company. **Action 1: Clerk to write.** Operation Yet was run over two days and involved the Rural Task Force on motorbikes and unmarked cars patrolling Bredhurst Woods and the surrounding areas. It was a success and it was **agreed** to write in thanks. **Action 2: Clerk to write.**

The meeting adjourned for a short public session but there were no matters raised.

164. Matters arising (for information only)

- a. AP1: the clerk is updating the website and any outstanding issues will be raised with EiS. **Action 3: Clerk to provide list if necessary.**
- b. AP2: it was **agreed** that Cllr Greer would submit comments on the Medway Local Plan. **Action 4: Cllr Greer to submit comments.**
- c. AP3: Cllr Jones declared an interest. Letters have been sent to residents in The Cut. It was **agreed** that Cllr Carr would follow up by visiting personally. **Action 5: Cllr Carr to visit residents.**
- d. AP4: the school was informed that the zigzag lines and the zebra crossing should be repainted by the end of April. An engineer visited to look at the zebra crossing posts and a quote is awaited.
- e. AP5: a temporary 'no dogs' sign has been put up and a permanent one has been ordered and is awaited.
- f. AP6: agenda item 166f.
- g. AP7: agenda item 166g.

- h. AP8: due to time constraints, it was **agreed** to put the newsletter on hold. A dog grooming business has requested an advert in the next edition.
- i. AP9: Kent Air Ambulance will send some advertising material.
- j. AP10: the village show needs to be put on the website and Facebook. **Action 6: Clerk to advertise.**

165. Playing field

A letter had been received from Savills but it did not answer all BPC's queries satisfactorily. Savills originally raised concerns over private gates giving direct access to the field and advised the PC to have a sub-letting agreement with the church shop which is on land leased by the PC. Cllrs had concerns over the future legal implications of both issues and did not wish to get involved in sub-letting arrangements. Cllrs also highlighted the need to consider the budget and the large amount of money spent on the field, particularly the play equipment. It would be a shame to hand the field back, especially as its future would be uncertain. However, any lease agreement would need to address BPC's concerns and protect the council from any future liabilities. It was **agreed** to write to Savills stating the PC would only consider renewing the lease if the boundaries are altered so the church shop is not included on PC land and a 2m fenced strip be instated parallel to properties in Fir Tree Grove, at the landowner's cost, to protect BPC from any future legal issues. The clerk will also ascertain, should the lease be terminated, if the landowner would accept liability for the existing play equipment and its continued public use or if they would require its removal. **Action 7: Clerk to write to Savills.**

166. Village maintenance

- a. Playground repairs – the recent inspection report highlights some issues of low risk. It was **agreed** to get a quote from Barge for the work. **Action 8: Clerk to get quote.**
- b. Tree survey – the recent report highlights some work required to be done within 3 months and some within 6 months, although some of this could be done 'in house'. It was **agreed** to get quotes for the work to be done within 3 months. **Action 9: Cllr Jones to get quotes.**
- c. Resurfacing in The Street – a quote has been received to resurface the area outside Abbots Court Farmhouse and Abbots Court Stables at the entrance to the village. Another quote is awaited. Although not owned by anyone, it appears there are four parties with right of access. It was **agreed** to write to all parties asking them to consider making a financial contribution to the work, along with the PC. **Action 10: Clerk to write.**
- d. Footpath clearance in Dunn Street – a quote has been received to clear the footpath between Meynell and The Old Stables. This was felt to be quite high and it was **agreed** to ask the two landowners if they would consider doing the work themselves. It was also **agreed** to ask the landowner to do the stretch between Camellia and Cherry Orchard in Dunn Street and between Bennetts Cottages and Arran Bank Farm. **Action 11: Clerk to write to all landowners.**
- e. Drain clearance – this has been scheduled and the work is imminent if not already taken place. The other side will need doing at some point.
- f. AONB sign – two quotes for the sign have been received and one for the installation. One more is awaited and then it can go to the insurance company.
- g. Verge maintenance, grass cutting and bulb planting – Cllr Jones had met with KCC to discuss the verge maintenance, which has been done to a very poor standard. More strimming has been arranged and cllrs will monitor individual areas. **Action 12: Clerk to thank KCC and cllrs to monitor work and inform clerk of standard.** It was **agreed** that cllrs would take responsibility for the buildouts. **Action 13: Cllrs Jones, Hales, Carr and**

Bowring to maintain buildouts. It was **agreed** to send a letter of thanks to the resident who supplied the bulbs now planted at the side of Manor Farm. **Action 14: Clerk to send letter.** It was **agreed** to replace the soil and plants in the troughs outside Pickwicks up to the value of £100. **Action 15: Cllr Jones to purchase soil and plants.** There are banks of nettles outside Oaklands and on the Forge Lane bridge that need levelling. **Action 16: Cllr Greer to speak to a resident regarding this.** Thanks were expressed for the work done in Blind Lane, the 22 volunteers who helped with the Bredhurst Tidy Up, including the leaflet distributors, Cllr Carr for organising it and MBC for the collection of the waste. Thanks were also expressed to a contact of Cllr Jones who renewed brickwork around the noticeboard free of charge.

167. Allotment

There have been two interested parties. It was **agreed** to offer the allotment to the first applicant and to ask him to also maintain the small strip of land on the other side of the fence at the front of his allotment. **Action 17: Clerk to contact applicant.** It was also **agreed** to write to the allotment holder on the corner plot asking for better maintenance to be observed. **Action 18: Clerk to write.**

168. Maidstone Borough Local Plan Main Modifications

It was **agreed** that no comment was necessary but that Cllr Greer would draft a letter thanking MBC for the work gone in to the Plan. **Action 19: Cllr Greer to draft a letter.**

169. KALC membership

It was **agreed** to renew membership of KALC at a cost of £202.15 (inc VAT).

170. Annual Parish Meeting

It was **agreed** to hold the APM before next month's meeting (the Annual Parish Council Meeting) at 6pm, and to invite local groups to present a brief report. **Action 20: Clerk to invite groups.**

171. Planning

- a. Land at Gibraltar Farm – appeal granted – noted.
- b. 16/505261 – 4 Willis Cottages. Cllr Carr left the room for this item. Concern was expressed at the length of time this was taking and the fact that MBC had sent an email to the PC which had not been received. **Action 21: Cllr Greer to look into this.** A resident also expressed concern over comments which had been published on the planning portal website. **Action 22: Clerk to raise this with MBC.**
- c. It was noted that MBC are considering getting rid of paper copies of planning applications.

172. Finance

- a. The financial statement and bank reconciliation were reviewed and accepted. BPC has been selected for intermediate audit this year and the internal audit is booked.

Account	Balance as of 31/03/17
Current Account	164.45
Reserve Account	15701.15
Total	15865.60

- b. Payment for the dog sign was not necessary as the sign has not yet arrived.
- c. Payments were **agreed** as follows:

Cheque	Payment	Amount
BACS	Clerk – wages and office rental	435.46
1403	Clerk – stamps and mileage	10.52
1404	James Carr – hedge cutting	920.00
1405	BAS Tree Consulting – tree survey	350.00
1406	OFN – grass cutting (£195) and allotment gate (£70)	265.00
1407	KALC - membership	202.15

173. Reports from parish councillors

Street cleaning is due to take place but it is uncertain whether Blind Lane is covered. **Action 23: Cllr Carr to ask for a map and schedule.**

174. Reports from borough and county councillors (if present)

Cllr Butler (MBC) has nearly finished his term of office as Mayor. An invitation to an event will be sent to the PC.

175. Correspondence

All correspondence was noted.

- a. The clerk is taking part in a review of MBC planning service.
- b. A letter of thanks has been received for all who took part in the Great British Spring Clean.
- c. Notice of the KCC election has been received.

The meeting adjourned for a short public session. The potholes in Forge Lane were queried and it was noted they were filled yesterday. A resident raised concerns over the speed of traffic through the village, despite the traffic calming measures. It was **agreed** to write to KCC Highways and the police expressing concerns and to put a post on Facebook to remind residents and others of the 20mph speed limit. **Action 24: Clerk to write and put on Facebook.**

176. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2016 at 6.30pm.
This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held beforehand at 6pm.

Signed.....

Date.....