

# **BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL**



## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Bredhurst CE Primary School, on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Louise Ferne, Cllr David Hales, Bex Ratchford (Clerk)

Public: 19

### **83. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Malcolm Greer due to illness in the family.

### **84. Declarations of interests**

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

### **85. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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

### **86. Village Hall Licence application**

Representatives of BVH had declined the invitation to attend the meeting but had provided responses to a list of questions supplied by BPC. As requested by BVH, their statement was read aloud and hard copies were provided to those present. Members of the public were invited to ask questions and comment. Clarification was needed on a number of responses which BPC was unable to provide. The increased number of possible events per year was a cause of concern, as was the impact on residents in close proximity. The noise limiter was noted and that it operates if the doors to the front of the hall are opened, but not those to the rear. The application states the garden can be used until 11pm, but the T&Cs state all doors must be closed and noise must be reduced to an absolute minimum after 9.30pm; this caused some confusion. It was noted that all the current flexibility for using an outside bar or bringing your own alcohol would remain under the new licence and therefore, in these situations, there would be no more control over the sale and consumption than there is currently. It was also noted that once the yearly quota of TENS is used up (15), no more events selling alcohol can take place. Should the application be approved, this would allow the sale of alcohol for 365 days a year although it was accepted that a more realistic figure would be 104 days, ie 52 weekends a year. Whilst the good intentions of current committee members were acknowledged, once a licence is granted it may be very difficult to revoke. New committee members in the future may want to run the hall in a very different manner to the way it is run now and turn a village community facility into a social club. There was concern regarding the conflict of interest for the Chair of BVH Committee, a registered charity, as he is the owner of 'That's the Spirit'. It was felt that it should be made clear to guests attending village hall fund raising events and hirers that currently and in the future 10% of takings go toward the upkeep of the hall and 90% go to the Chair's company 'That's the Spirit'. BVH Committee was requested to provide copies of their correspondence with the Charity Commission regarding the conflict of interest, how recent the advice was and to clarify if they have informed the Charity Commission of the extent of the possible increase in trading. It was questioned whether the bar contract had been put out to tender. It was suggested by members of the

public that BPC seeks legal advice. Cllrs and members of the public were very concerned there had been no personal representation from BVH at the meeting, and that the number of hours requested was too high and were not convinced of the benefits of the application. It was **agreed** to object to the application but to comment that BPC would be happy to negotiate with BVH. **Action 1: Clerk to submit objection.**

**87. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 7.01pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at 6.30pm.**

Signed.....

Date.....