

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Bredhurst CE Primary School, on Wednesday 4th October 2017 at 6.30pm

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

Public: 14

75. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bowring due to returning from holiday, Cllr Greer and Cllr Hinder (MBC) due to other engagements.

76. Declarations of interests

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

77. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017

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

78. Police briefing

PCSO Adlington was not present but the crime figures had been obtained via the E-watch website. There has been one incident of a vehicle being broken into in Fir Tree Grove. The advertising van on Lidsing bridge was moved on quickly after being reported.

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

79. Matters arising (for information only)

- a. AP1: it is uncertain which areas the weed killing contractor has been asked to do, as no written specification can be found. It was **agreed** to meet with the contractor, do a walk round the village and produce a written specification to save any further difficulties. **Action 1: Clerk to meet with contractor and formulate written specification.**
- b. AP2: the playground repairs have taken place and it is now usable.
- c. AP3: agenda item 80.
- d. AP4: a resident is happy to design the sign according to BPC's specification, and Kent Police have given permission for their logo to be used. It was **agreed** that Cllr Carr would pursue getting permission to use the logo of either Maidstone Borough Council or KCC, liaise with the resident over the design of the sign and investigate prices for manufacture. **Action 2: Cllr Carr to pursue sign design and manufacture.**
- e. AP5: planning comment made.
- f. AP6: thanks sent to Mayor's office.
- g. AP7: Rights of Way survey forwarded to residents.
- h. AP8: Cllr Carr has requested the schedule of works but is waiting for the relevant member of staff to be back from leave.
- i. AP9: Savills has been contacted and the lease renewal paperwork is progressing.

80. Fencing

Three quotes had originally been received in July. Following the consultation three contractors were asked to quote for the work, with a written revised specification provided. Only two quotes were received. It was **agreed** to accept the quote from Buckland Property Services to do the fencing work, as it was the cheaper of the two quotes, at £2755 plus VAT (the VAT can be reclaimed), but it was **agreed** not to remove the chain link fence at the request of Bredhurst Village Hall Committee who asked that it remain in situ. **Action 3: Clerk to inform contractors.**

81. Village Tidy-Up

It was **agreed** to set a date of Sunday 22nd October for the village tidy-up day, plus other days and times as necessary and convenient. Projects to be done include road sweeping, hedge maintenance, sign cleaning, bench cleaning and cleaning the wooden play equipment. Cllr Carr will also do the hydrant checks this month. It was **agreed** to link the day to the Keep Kent Clean Campaign. **Action 4: Cllr Carr to organise and link to the campaign.** Cllr Carr is also chasing KCC regarding the repainting of the railings.

82. Consultation on M2 J5 improvements

It was unsure whether the consultation is still live. If so, it was **agreed** that cllrs would respond individually with personal comments and to send the link to the consultation to residents. **Action 5: Cllrs to comment if felt necessary and clerk to send link.**

83. Code of Conduct Complaint

A resident had made a formal complaint about Cllr Jones to Maidstone Borough Council under the Code of Conduct. MBC has investigated and found that it is not in the public interest to take the matter further, the alleged conduct does not amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct and no action will be taken. MBC commented on the detrimental effect of the breakdown in the relationship with BVH and suggested a meeting, with an offer to mediate. It was **agreed** to respond to MBC agreeing to a meeting and mediation. **Action 6: Clerk to respond.**

84. Financial Regulations

The updated Financial Regulations were **agreed.**

85. Compliments, Complaints and Comments Policy

The updated Compliments, Complaints and Comments Policy, which now includes a section on vexatious complaints, was **agreed.**

86. Equal Opportunities Policy

The updated Equal Opportunities Policy was **agreed.**

87. FOI and Publication Scheme

The updated FOI and Publication Scheme was **agreed.** The Data Protection Policy will need checking.

88. Media Policy

The updated Media Policy was **agreed.**

89. Planning

- a. 17/504716 – 10 Kemsley Street Road – erection of a two storey detached dwelling. The applicant was invited to comment. Pre-planning advice has been taken, the proposed building is one and half storeys, with a pitched roof in line with the other properties. Residents were invited to comment. A neighbour had some questions which had already been discussed with the applicant. It was **agreed** to comment in favour of the application.
Action 7: Clerk to comment.

90. Finance

- a. The financial statement and bank reconciliation were reviewed and accepted.

Account	Balance as of 30/09/17
Current Account	194.68
Reserve Account	19,655.77
Total	19,850.45

- b. The payments to Barge could not be made as the invoice had not yet been received.
- c. It was **agreed** that all cllrs should be signatories. **Action 8: Clerk to obtain form.**
- d. Payments were **agreed** as follows:

Cheque	Payment	Amount
BACS	Bex Ratchford – wages and office rental	422.22
1425	Axeworks – treeworks	460.00

91. Reports from parish councillors

Cllr Jones had met with two KCC members in Bredhurst and showed them around the village.

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

Cllr Butler reported that the Local Plan had been called in by local MPs to the Secretary of State, but the call in had been rejected. The final decision should now be made on 25th October.

93. Correspondence

- a. The council appears to have a domain name registered which expires this month. It was **agreed** not to renew the domain name and to ensure any emails going to the linked address are re-directed if possible and that all correspondents have the correct email address. **Action 9: Clerk to deal with email addresses.**
- b. A query has been received regarding Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Jones receives the email updates. There has been little interest shown in the past. If residents express an interest the scheme could be revived.

The meeting adjourned for a short public session. It was questioned whether the PC had listened to residents' views in the recent consultation. The PC responded that it had to take account of a number of issues in its decision making, including the responses to the consultation, whether the consultation had been unduly influenced, advice from KALC and an independent playground inspector who supported the erection of a fence. A resident commented on the village hall committee's lack of transparency and disgraceful conduct towards the PC and towards residents.

who have supported the PC. The resident was advised to put his concerns in writing to BVH. The amount of traffic using Forge Lane is a cause for concern, particularly heavy lorries, as the road appears to be sinking. The resident was advised to report this online. **Action 10: Clerk to send online reporting tool link to residents and add this item to next month's agenda.** It was clarified that the need for revised fencing quotes was due to no longer requiring a new pedestrian gate.

94. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.34pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1st November 2017** at 6.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....