

# BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
Blacksmiths Barn,  
Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Dan Fifield, Cllr Chantelle Goodwin-Sword, Cllr Warren Salter, Cllr Claire Sharp, Borough Cllrs Bob Hinder and Anne Brindle.  
Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO  
Public: 5

**474. Apologies for Absence**

Borough Councillor Heidi Bryant and PCSO Matthew Adlington – apologies accepted.

**475. Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**476. Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 Parish Council Meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**477. Police Briefing**

There were no crimes reported in Bredhurst during the preceding month. It has been confirmed that the proposed changes to the areas covered by PCSOs will no longer take place. PCSO Matt Adlington will continue to cover Bredhurst.

**478. Matters Arising (for information only)**

To receive an update on action points from previous meetings.

APs from 01-09-21	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed / Agenda Item 13-10-21
AP1	Details of minor works and works requiring a quote to the Clerk.	Cllrs Bowring & Fifield	479a
AP2	Instruct Lucanus re fencing	Clerk	Completed
AP3	Meet with Landscape Services	Cllr Jones	479d
AP4	Instruct Advance Construction re installation of drain cover	Cllr Jones	479e
AP5	Instruct JP Knight & Sons re installing of Awning	Cllr Jones	480c
AP6	Place order with ONECOM re internet upgrade	Clerk	480d
AP7	Place order for green bin with MBC	Cllr Carr	480e
AP8	Inform Lucanus of BPCs decision re planting of Hornbeam	Clerk	Completed
AP9	Obtain cost of SID & update re Speedwatch volunteers/ equipment	Clerk/Bowring	481
AP10	Publish updated policies	Cllr Jones	Not Completed
AP11	Liaise with businesses re purchase of defibrillator	Cllr Fifield	482
AP12	Clarify installation and ongoing maintenance costs of defibrillator	Clerk & Cllr Fifield	482
AP13	Organise laptop maintenance check & purchase external hard drive	Clerk	Completed
AP14	Submit planning response to MBC	Cllr Jones	Not Completed
AP15	Seek clarification from MBC planning re 21/502976/FULL	Cllr Jones	Not Completed

<b>AP16</b>	Seek clarification from MBC planning re 21/503146/FULL	Cllr Jones	Not Completed
<b>AP17</b>	Review of contracts	Clerk	484
<b>AP18</b>	Inform successful/unsuccessful auditors	Clerk	Completed
<b>AP19</b>	Respond to resident's email	Clerk	Completed

Cllr Jones apologised for not completing all action point from last month. This was due to the large amount of time spent relating to the Local Plan Review / the proposed Lidsing Garden Development.

#### 479. Community Playing field

- a. Cllr Bowring confirmed the weekly checklists had been submitted to the Clerk and confirmed that he and Cllr Fifield are able to level the soil at the entrance to the toddlers' play area, carry out minor repairs to the shackles on the swings and tighten the rope on the walkway. Both Cllrs Bowring and Fifield confirmed the most urgent item is the repair of the wetpour in the toddlers' play area. Cllr Fifield is obtaining three quotes.

**AP1: Cllrs Bowring and Fifield to carry out minor repairs**

**AP2: Cllr Fifield to obtain three quotes for repair/replacement of the wetpour area**

- b. There has been more damage to a tree in the toddlers' play area. It was agreed to ask Lucanus to monitor and remove lower limbs as necessary.

**AP3: Cllr Jones to instruct Lucanus**

- c. A small fencing job is due to be carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> November.
- d. Cllr Jones has met with Landscape Services. They will clarify their contract and provide a quote for next year prior to BPC's December meeting.
- e. The contractor has confirmed the replacement drain cover will be fitted W/C 18<sup>th</sup> October, subject to the availability of materials.

#### 480. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. The Clerk confirmed he is still using MS Office for bookings. He will meet with Cllr Carr to discuss the new system in the near future.

**AP4: Cllr Carr to discuss new booking system with the Clerk**

- b. Monthly electric meter readings are now being provided to Ecotricity which allow accurate bills to be produced.
- c. All Cllrs agreed to the installation of a sun canopy and associated electrical works. Instructions given to JP Knight and Electrical Solutions to proceed.
- d. Instructions have been given to upgrade the internet system and we are awaiting further details from Openreach.
- e. MBC green waste bin is on order but there are severe delays with delivery.
- f. Cllrs **agreed** to purchase Hornbeam up to the value of £200.

**AP5: Cllr Carr to source and order tree.**

- g. No update available regarding the planting of Photinia Red Robins.
- h. An update was provided to Cllrs regarding the budget for The Barn. All income generated is from donations, grants and hire fees. No funds have been used for The Barn from the precept. To date, the total income is £37,215.22 with expenditure of £16,613.68 giving a balance of £20,601.54. There is some committed expenditure but other projects could be considered. Cllrs **agreed** a £1000 budget to have Christmas lights professionally installed and decoration. Cllrs **agreed** an increase to the gardener's hours with immediate effect to 50 hours March to September and 25 hours October to February. Annual plant expenditure **agreed** at £600pa.

**AP6: Cllrs Jones to arrange Christmas lights and decorations**

**AP7: Clerk to inform gardener of new contract term**

- i. Cllrs considered and **agreed** the Barn insurance renewal quote at £433.72

**AP8: Clerk to inform the insurers**

#### 481. Traffic Issues and Highways

The Clerk has obtained a price for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) at approximately £2000. Boxley Parish Council has been approached to borrow their Speedwatch equipment but it seems they no longer have it. BPC will check the position with Boxley. We will approach other Parishes to ask if it may be possible to borrow their equipment. The Police have advised that before we purchase equipment, BPC needs to establish how many volunteers are likely to come forward. It may also be possible for KCC to collect speed data.

**AP9: Cllr Carr to contact KCC regarding the collection of speed data.**

**AP10: Cllr Jones to post on BPC's Facebook pages asking for Speedwatch volunteers**

#### 482. Defibrillator

A letter was received from the Manager of Bredhurst Village Hall stating as there is a defibrillator located at the Hall, he felt the purchase of another machine was a waste of resident's money. Cllrs disagreed with his opinion and felt that the cost of a second machine was a small price to pay if it can help save a life. Also, we hope to site the machine in a central location which is far busier than the hall.

**AP11: Cllr Fifield to meet with a local business to discuss the provision of a defibrillator.**

#### 483. Planning

a. **21/503948/TPOA** | Tree Preservation Order application Yew x 4 (TPO 4 of 1977 - G1) - Fell. | 7 Blacksmiths Court Bredhurst ME7 3JU **Application Refused – Noted**

b. **21/504650/FULL** | Erection of a dwelling with associated landscaping, access, parking and turning facilities. | Land Rear of Forge Lodge Forge Lane Bredhurst Gillingham Kent ME7 3JW It was unanimously **agreed** to object on the grounds of loss of light, intrusion of privacy and over development of the area.

**AP12: Clerk to make planning comment.**

c. Cllr Jones provided an update regarding the **Lidsing Garden Development / Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan Review**. On 6<sup>th</sup> October, MBC Cllrs voted to approve the Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review Draft for Submission for public consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning by 26/23 votes. The consultation period will begin on 29<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> December. Cllrs Jones and Carr spoke at the meeting along with representatives of two Lidsing families.

At BPC's meeting Cllr Jones questioned the process used by MBC and asked if all Borough Cllrs had seen and considered the 1700 objections from residents and the AONB Unit's 10 page letter of objection prior to the vote on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Borough Cllrs Hinder and Brindle advised that they are seeking details regarding the objections submitted and stated that further objections should not be emotive but focus on planning terms. They stated the Inspector will examine the whole process of the LPR from the Call for Sites to Reg19 and will have three choices; the plan could be accepted, rejected or amended. If rejected, MBC may need to start the whole process again.

Both BPC and Against Lidsing Garden Development (ALGD) working group, chaired by Cllr Jones, will continue to fight the adoption of the Local Plan. All residents and supporters will be encouraged to highlight its many faults during the consultation period. In 2022, the plan will be scrutinised by a Government Inspector who will test its soundness and deliverability.

Cllrs Jones and Carr confirmed their attendance at tomorrow's meeting of ALGD Working Group and that Cllr Jones has had informal discussions with two planning consultants.

d. Other planning matters

**Outline Application (with all matters reserved except access) for the erection of up to 450 market and affordable dwellings, nursery and supporting retail space up to 85sqm, with provision of main access to Ham Lane; estate roads; cycle and pedestrian routes; residential and community open space and landscaping; new junction for Lidsing Road/Hempstead Road and realignment and widening of Lidsing Road. Off site related highway works to Westfield Sole Road, Shawstead Road, Hempstead Road, Chapel Lane, Hempstead Valley Drive, Hoath Way roundabout, Hoath Way and M2 Junction 4 - Re-submission of MC/19/0336**

Cllr Jones will speak at the Appeal on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**484. Review of Contracts**

The Clerk provided a verbal update. The work is ongoing.

**485. Finance**

a. Financial statement and bank reconciliation were **received and accepted**.

Account	Balance as of 10/10/21
Unity Trust Account	£46,975.61

b. It was **agreed** that the Clerk may pay staffing and regular expenditure by BACs and/or standing order providing amounts are in line with previous months. Examples of regular payments include, but not limited to, Community Field rent, Clerk's Salary and HMRC.

c. The following payments were **agreed** and authorised as follows:

**Payments made out of meeting**

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd - September	8.82	1.76	10.58	NC & GS
DD	ONECOM SVS LTD – Internet Sept	24.14	4.83	28.97	NC & GS
65	Bank Service Charge	18.00		18.00	NC & GS
DD	Business Stream – Allotments Water	7.73	0	7.73	NC & GS
66	Clerks Salary and Office Rental	-		-	NC & VJ
67	HMRC	-		-	NV & VJ

\* VAT to be reclaimed.

**Payments for authorising at meeting**

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
68	Currys- HDMI Cable 5M	5.41	1.08	6.49	NC & GS
69	Ecotricity September Bill No.4805006	43.83	2.19	46.02	NC & GS
70	Savills - Community Field Quarterly Rental Q3	112.50		112.50	NC & GS
71	Mike Searley - September Grass Cutting Barn	35.00		35.00	NC & GS
72	Southern Water September 2021	15.11		15.11	NC & GS
73	Rachel Ford – September Gardening 9.5 hrs + Plants (£36.96)	226.96		226.96	NC & GS
74	Clerk in Action Training Charge	50.00	10.00	60.00	NC & GS

\* VAT to be reclaimed.

Cllrs Carr and Goodwin-Sword **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

**486. Reports from Parish Councillors.**

None received.

**487. Reports from Borough and County Councillors (if present)**

None received.

**488. Correspondence**

An offensive email sent to St Peter's Church and Bredhurst residents advising that BPC should not attend the forthcoming Remembrance Service was discussed by Cllrs. We understand appropriate action has been taken by St Peter's. Bredhurst Parish Council has been invited to lay a wreath at the service and three Cllrs have **agreed** to attend. The Clerk will purchase a wreath. Cllrs also unanimously **agreed** to purchase a British Legion 'Tommy' silhouette.

**AP13: Clerk to purchase a wreath and Tommy**

**Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

**489. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 6.30pm**

Signed.......... Date..........