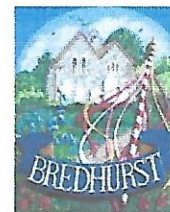


BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Blacksmiths Barn,
Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 6.30pm**

Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice Chair), Cllr Dan Fifield, Borough Cllrs Bob Hinder and Anne Brindle.
Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO
Public: 0

507. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Warren Salter, Cllr Clair Sharp and PCSO Matthew Adlington – apologies accepted.
Cllr Chantelle Goodwin-Sword and Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllrs Heidi Bryant no communication received.
Cllrs accepted Cllr Warren Salter's resignation and would like to thank him for his time served on Bredhurst Parish Council.

AP1: Clerk to advertise vacancy.

508. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

509. Minutes of 3rd November 2021 Parish Council Meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

510. Police Briefing

There were no crimes reported in Bredhurst during the preceding month.

Matt Adlington has advised BPC that he is leaving the Police and a new PCSO will be assigned.

511. Matters Arising (for information only)

Action Points 03-11-21	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 01-12-21
AP1	To carry out minor repairs (Community Field)	Cllrs Bowring & Fifield	512a
AP2	To obtain three quotes for repair/replacement of wetpour	Cllr Fifield	512b
AP4	Source & order Hornbeam	Cllr Carr	513a
AP6	Meet with local business re provision of defibrillator	Cllr Fifield	515

Action Points from 01-09-21

	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 01-12-21
AP10	Publish updated policies	Cllr Jones	Part Completed

Cllr Jones apologised for not completing action point AP10. This was due to the large amount of time spent relating to the Local Plan Review / the proposed Lidsing Garden Development.

512. Community Playing Field

- a. The Clerk has received reports dating from May from Cllr Fifield. No New damage. Minor repairs are still outstanding.

AP2: Cllrs Bowring and Fifield to conduct minor repairs ASAP.

- b. Cllr Fifield confirmed he has received two quotes to replace the wetpour but is chasing up the outstanding third quote.

AP3: Cllr Fifield to chase up wetpour quotes. Clerk will try to source other contractors.

- c. The contractor has now confirmed delivery of the drain cover and will fit it ASAP.

AP4: Cllr Jones to chase installation date.

513. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. MBC Landscape Officer has responded to our enquiry regarding the species of Hornbeam and the planting position. MBC recommend *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine' but had no objection to BPC's original choice. Cllrs agreed to proceed with original cheaper option *Carpinus betulus* Fastigiata to be purchased by Cllr Carr.

AP5: Cllr Carr to purchase tree and advise Cllrs on planting date.

- b. Electricity usage of the Barn has increased. Cllrs agreed to investigate the cost of remote monitoring/control of heating using Hive or Nest type thermostats.

AP6: Cllr Fifield to provide a quote.

514. Traffic Issues and Highways

Despite emailing residents and advertising on Facebook, only six volunteers have come forward. This is insufficient to operate a Speedwatch scheme. Cllrs agreed to review next year.

515. Defibrillator

The Bell have agreed in principle to a defibrillator at their premises. Details regarding permissions required need finalising.

AP7: Cllr Fifield to progress discussions.

516. Planning

- a. To receive an update regarding **Lidsing Garden Development / Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan.**

The following actions have been taken:

- Helen Whatley MP attended a meeting with Cllrs on 12th November and agreed to support the ALGD campaign. Publicity photos were taken and circulated via Helen's Facebook page.
- BPC / ALGD joined a county-wide 'Save Kent's Green Spaces' Day of Action on 28th November. It was attended by 2 MPs - Rehman Chishti (Hempstead & Gillingham) and Helen Whatley (Faversham & Mid-Kent), Boxley Ward members, several Medway Cllrs, including the Leader of Medway Council, Alan Jarrett. Both Rehman Chishti and Alan Jarrett addressed the crowd and voiced their strong opposition to MBC's Local Plan.
- Numerous responses to FOIs have been received, none of which are helpful.
- No further details yet regarding two Code of Conduct complaints submitted by a resident in respect of two Borough Cllrs.
- Bredhurst PC / ALGD are continuing discussions with Medway Councillors, CPRE, AONB, planning consultants and others.
- 10,000 BPC/ALGD leaflets were delivered across Bredhurst, Wigmore, Hempstead, Lordswood, Penenden Heath and other areas.
- At November's meeting, Cllrs approved expenditure for the design of an ALGD website and annual fee @ approximately £96pa and up to £1000 for associated ALGD costs.
- A qualified Ecologist has quoted £2,200 for up to eight days work to study all documents and prepare a submission. Bredhurst Woodland Action Group have offered to meet half the costs.

- Cllrs were asked to increase the budget to £1,100 and agree the use of a professional Ecologist. Cllrs agreed to the addition expenditure.
- Detailed guidance on how to submit a response is now on the ALGD Facebook Page and website.
- Following the departure of Cllr Salter who sat on the ALGD working group, his place will now be taken by Cllr Chris Shepherd, Chair of Boxley PC.
- Draft response to be agreed by Cllrs. Clerk to submit.

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 - **Application permitted by MBC.**

c. Other planning matters
None.

517. Finance

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

Account	Balance as of 30/11/21
Unity Trust Account	£45,716.60

b. The following payments made out of meeting and at meeting were **agreed.** Payments to be made by BACS unless specified otherwise.

Payments made out of meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd – November 2021	8.82	1.76	10.58	NC + DF
DD	ONECOM SVS LTD – Internet November 2021	56.31	11.26	67.57	NC + DF

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
92	Ecotricity November Bill	173.86	8.69	182.55	NC + DF
93	Lucanus– Playing Field Fence Repair	278.00		278.00	NC + DF
94	Cllr Jones – Christmas Tree Blacksmiths Barn	474.17	94.83	569.00	NC + DF
95	AGAR – PKF Littlejohn LLP	200.00	40.00	240.00	NC + DF
96	Electrical Solutions Kent-Power to Awning	248.00	49.60	297.60	NC + DF
97	Electrical Solutions Kent-Power supply/Xmas Lights	290.00	58.00	348.00	NC + DF
98	Cllr Jones – Miscellaneous Stationary Items	22.34		22.34	NC + DF
99	Mike Searley – November Grass Cutting	30.00		30.00	NC + DF
100	Rachel Ford – November Gardening 4 hrs	80.00		80.00	NC + DF
101	Mona Cleaning – Barn Invoice November	60.00		60.00	NC + DF

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Cllrs Nichola Carr and Cllr Dan Fifield **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

- Budget 2022-2023. Clerk circulated list of contracts to help inform next year's budget. Item to be deferred to next BPC meeting.
- Precept for 2022-23. Preliminary calculation undertaken. Await further information from MBC. Item to be deferred to next BPC meeting.

518. Reports from Parish Councillors.

None received.

519. Reports from Borough and County Councillors (if present)

None received.

520. Correspondence

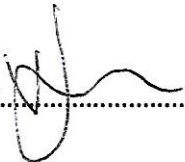
- a. Rural Kent Annual Meeting – Details circulated to Cllrs.
- b. Request received from a resident to borrow tables and chairs from Blacksmith's Barn. Cllrs **agreed** on the basis that any damage to be paid for on a like for like basis.
- c. BPC's gardener has increased her hourly rate by £5ph from January 2022. Cllrs **agreed** the price increase.

AP8: Clerk to update contract and inform gardener.

521. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

522. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 6.30pm

Signed.....


Date..... 5/1/22.....