

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Blacksmith's Barn
Wednesday 1st June 2022 at 6.30pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Claire Sharp, Cllr Chantelle Goodwin-Sword and Borough Cllrs Anne Brindle and Bob Hinder.
 Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO.
 Public: 1.

The Chairman welcomed Sue Harwood, Against Lidsing Garden Development (ALGD), to the meeting.

610. Apologies for Absence

None received.

611. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

612. Minutes of 4th May 2022 Parish Council Meeting

The minutes were **agreed** by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

613. Committees and Election of Representatives

Cllrs **agreed** to discontinue the Staff Line Management Committee and retain the Personnel Committee with Cllrs Jones, Carr, Goodwin-Sword and Sharp elected as members.

614. Police Briefing

There were no crimes reported in Bredhurst during the preceding month. The Clerk has received a reply from PCSO Caroline Honeysett who explained, due to lack of staff, it is unlikely she will attend future meetings.

615. Matters Arising (for information only)

Action Points from 04-05-22

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item
AP1	Clerk to contact PCSO's superior	Clerk	Completed
AP2	Clerk to chase insurance company	Clerk	Completed
AP3	Continuing discussions with Savills to resolve invoices	Cllr Jones & Clerk	616b
AP4	Clerk to instruct Lucanus to carry out VTA	Clerk	Completed
AP5	Clerk to obtain additional loft boarding quote	Clerk	617a
AP6	Clerk to instruct AD Property Maintenance	Clerk	Completed
AP7	Clerk to instruct Lucanus	Clerk	Completed
AP8	Cllr Jones to obtain complete quote	Cllr Jones	618a
AP9	Cllr Fifield to check condition of all brickwork	Cllr Fifield	618a
AP10	Clerk to contact Village Hall Chair	Clerk	619a
AP11	Clerk to update asset register and renew insurance policy	Clerk	Completed
AP12	Clerk to reply to resident	Clerk	Completed

616. Community Playing Field

- a. BPC's insurance claim for replacement wetpour has been declined as the company feel the damage is due to wear and tear. Cllrs **agreed** that the Clerk will contact the most cost-effective supplier and ask them to quote for additional items required. Cllrs **agreed** play equipment repairs will be funded from BPC's CIL allocation.

AP1: Clerk to contact supplier for updated quote.

- b. There has been no contact from Savills since BPC's last approached them in April. Cllr Jones will send follow up emails.

AP2: Cllr Jones to send follow up emails.

- c. The Clerk receives a monthly playground inspection report from MBC. Cllrs **agreed** BPC will carry out ad hoc checks with findings passed to the Clerk.
- d. The Clerk has instructed Lucanus to proceed with the yearly Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) which will be completed by the end of June.

617. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. Two quotes received for part boarding of loft area, but they were not like for like. Clerk to request revised quote from the second company to allow Cllrs to decide.

AP3: Clerk to obtain revised quote.

- b. The new kitchen cupboard will be fitted by the end of June.
- c. A quote has been received to level bin storage area @ £25 (slabs/materials at cost). Clerk has instructed Lucanus to proceed. Work will be done around 9/10th July.
- d. Cllrs **agreed** to promote and advertise the use of Blacksmiths Barn on our Facebook page and to advertise in the Oast Beer Festival Programme.

AP4: Cllr Jones to arrange adverts.

- e. A replacement cleaning company is required to clean Blacksmith's Barn. A job specification and advert will be circulated on Facebook, via the residents' email list and BPC website.

AP5: Clerk to circulate advert.

618. Village Maintenance

BPC have received no response from Greene King since 5th May regarding the damage to kerbing/grass by a lorry delivering to The Bell.

AP6: Clerk to chase Greene King.

AP7: Cllr Fifield to check condition of the whole area.

AP8: Cllr Jones to obtain a quote from BPC's grass cutting company.

619. Defibrillator

The Clerk has not had a response from the Village Hall Manager regarding issues relating to the defibrillator located at the Village Hall. The Clerk will contact him again. Contact details are required for the Defibrillator signs which BPC will place on our main notice board. BPC also needs confirmation that the machine is regularly inspected and maintained.

AP9: Clerk to contact Village Hall Manager.

620. Planning

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

Cllr Jones, the Clerk and Sue Harwood had an initial meeting with the barrister who outlined many fundamental flaws with MBC's Local Plan. He advised on the specialist consultancy companies we should approach to represent us at the EIP.

Following the initial meeting, BPC received the barrister's quote and a quote from one consultancy company. Others are awaited. The GoFundMe campaign was launched on 27th May and, based on the quotes received, had an initial target of £26,000. More than £26,000 will be needed as there are other consultants we need to hire. The total figure is in the region of £36,000 and BPC are exploring other options. To date, over £13,000 has been raised.

16 local businesses have donated to the campaign, including: Whiskers Lodge Cattery, Twydall Carpets, Bell Glass, Kitchen Culture, N&D Attwood, Boxley Sawmill, Pickwick Motors plus many others.

The Government Inspector's initial nine-page letter to MBC was issued last week and highlighted areas of concern and several actions for MBC. He highlighted many points BPC has repeatedly raised with MBC, and it was encouraging he echoed our concerns.

A public meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th June at 7pm in Blacksmith's Barn and 10,000 leaflets are soon to be delivered by many volunteers across Hempstead, Wigmore, Lordswood, Walderslade, Bredhurst and Boxley. BPC would encourage residents and supporters to fund raise if they are able to do so.

- b. Other Planning Matters
None.

621. Finance

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

Account	Balance as of 31/05/22
Unity Trust Account	£54,900.32

- b. The following payments made out of 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 – May 2022	8.77	1.75	10.52	--
DD	Onecom – May 2022	13.02	2.60	15.62	--
21	Gallagher PL Insurance 2022-23	781.69		781.69	NC & CGS
22	Ecotricity – May 2022	151.50		151.50	NC & CGS

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
23	Mike Sealey – Barn Grass Cutting - May	30.00		30.00	NC & CGS
24	Cllr Jones – Party Packs Union Jack Bunting #2	25.71	5.14	30.85	NC & CGS
25	Cllr Jones – Lidsing GoFundMe Leaflets	265.99		265.99	NC & CGS
26	Rachel Ford - Gardening 4 hrs - May	100.00		100.00	NC & CGS
27	Clerk – Cartridge Save - A4 Paper	28.99	5.80	34.79	NC & CGS
28	Rachel Ford - Plants	40.00	8.00	48.00	NC & CGS

* VAT to be reclaimed

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

- c. The BPC Internal Audit was carried out by KCC on 10th May which was followed up by written questions and a Teams meeting. There was a small disparity between a paragraph in the Financial

Regulations and Standing Orders. This was discussed and **agreed** by Cllrs and documents will be adjusted and posted on BPC website.

- i. The Annual Governance Statement was **reviewed** by Cllrs and **agreed** and **signed** by chair and clerk.
- ii. The Accounting Statements for 2021-22 were **approved** and signed.

AP10: Clerk to publish and submit to PKF Littlejohn.

622. Reports from Parish Councillors

None received.

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

Cllr Brindle explained all Cllrs are getting used to new systems introduced regarding the structure of MBC committees.

624. Correspondence

None received.

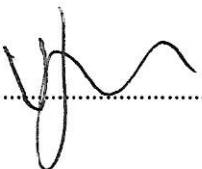
625. Closed Session

- a. The Clerk left the meeting for this item. Due to EOY accounts, audit and the Lidsing campaign the Clerk has accrued 23 hours overtime up to and including 11th May. Cllrs **agreed** to pay 20 hours overtime with the balance carried forward. The Clerk re-joined the meeting and was satisfied with the decision.
- b. Cllrs considered alternative sources of funding for the Lidsing campaign. Cllrs **agreed** to proposals detailed in the Meeting Notes circulated to Cllrs prior to this meeting.

626. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

627. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 6.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....20/10/22