

# BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
Blacksmiths Barn,  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 6.30pm**

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

**556. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Chantelle Goodwin-Sword and Dan Fifield – apologies accepted.

**557. Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**558. Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 Parish Council Meeting**

There were two minor amendments required in section 548a of the minutes. On both occasions, AGLD was changed to ALGD and initialled. The minutes were subsequently **agreed** and signed by the Chair.

**559. Police Briefing**

There were no crimes reported in Bredhurst during the preceding month.  
There has been no contact from PCSO Caroline Honeysett.

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

**Action Points from 02-02-22**

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 02-03-22
AP1	Notify Lucanus re community field fencing	Clerk	Completed & Fence Installed
AP2	Chase wetpour quotes and alternative solution	Cllr Fifield	561a
AP3	Chase revised Landscape Services contract	Clerk	Completed & Contract signed
AP4	Download Hive App	Clerk	Completed
AP5	Install Smart Home switch in loft.	Cllr Bowring	562b
AP6	Amend Conditions of Hire policy re free setting up/clearing away times	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP7	Amend Conditions of Hire policy re operation of Hive and Electric awning	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP8	Inform contractor quote for settlement cracks accepted but work to be deferred until Spring	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP9	Discuss damage to kerbing/grass by a delivery to The Bell	Cllr Carr	563a
AP10	Inspection of fingerpost and village sign	Cllr Bowring	563b
AP11	Street name plates to be cleaned as part of Village Spring Clean – date tbc	Cllr Carr	563c

<b>AP12</b>	Build-out update re larger reflectors/paint kerbing white	Cllr Carr	563e
<b>AP13</b>	Discuss with local business progress of defibrillator	Cllr Fifield	564a
<b>AP14</b>	Provide location signs for existing village defibrillator	Clerk	564b
<b>AP15</b>	Planning application 21/506626/FULL response to MBC	Clerk	<b>Completed</b>
<b>AP16</b>	CIL return to be notified to MBC	Clerk	566c
<b>AP17</b>	Apply to join SLCC	Clerk	<b>Completed</b>
<b>AP18</b>	KALC meeting notes to be circulated to Cllrs	Cllr Bowring	<b>Completed</b>
<b>AP19</b>	Advertise details re Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Clerk	<b>Completed</b>

#### 561. Community Playing Field

- a. Item deferred as Cllr Fifield not present.

**AP1: Cllr Fifield to provide update next meeting.**

The Clerk has contacted two additional contractors as in the present climate it is proving extremely difficult to get quotations or even a response from companies.

**AP2: Clerk to try and obtain alternative quotes.**

- b. Landscape Services contract for the field and village maintenance has been accepted and signed by Clerk.  
c. An additional section of fencing has now been installed at the Community Field.

#### 562. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. The heating levels via the Hive remote thermostat are being monitored by Clerk.  
b. The BG Smart Home remote switch cannot be fitted until some loft boarding is carried out.  
c. Cllrs **agreed** that one third of the loft area above kitchen and bathroom to be boarded out.  
d. Cllrs were asked to consider a request for special terms for a long-term booking but **agreed** to maintain current terms and conditions with no special rates.

**AP3: Cllr Jones to arrange quotation for loft boarding.**  
**AP4: Cllr Jones to inform prospective hirer of decision.**

#### 563. Village Maintenance

- a. Cllr Carr to obtain an update regarding the damage to kerbing/grass by a delivery lorry to The Bell.  
**AP5: Cllr Carr to contact manager of The Bell to discuss.**  
b. Cllr Bowring **agreed** to re-paint the Parish Council fingerpost outside Pickwick Motors and the Village Sign.  
**AP6: Cllr Bowring to paint fingerpost and Village Sign.**  
c. Date to be confirmed for the village spring clean, to include cleaning of street name plates.  
**AP7: Cllr Carr to circulate date.**  
d. Cllrs **agreed** to repair and re-install the footpath map notice board. Cllr Bowring offered to undertake this work.  
**AP8: Cllr Bowring to re-install footpath map.**  
e. Cllr Carr reported that the provision of bigger bollard reflectors for build-outs is under review with KCC. Cllr Carr confirmed the kerbing to both build-outs has been painted white.  
**AP9: Cllr Carr to provide update regarding bigger bollard reflectors at next meeting.**

#### 564. Defibrillator

- a. Item deferred as Cllr Fifield not present.

**AP10: Cllr Fifield to provide update at next meeting.**

- b. Location signs for the existing defibrillator have been ordered, awaiting delivery.

**AP11: Clerk to update Cllrs at next meeting.**

## 565. Planning

### a. Lidsing Garden Development / Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan.

Cllr Jones spoke at the SPIC on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and asked:

- Of the 2,500 representations submitted, how many relate to Lidsing? The Chair of SPIC replied that there about 1000 representations of which the majority are objections.
- When processing the representations, do officers work to written guidance and, if so, can this please be made public? If there is no written guidance, how does MBC ensure consistency and impartiality? The Chair replied there is no written guidance, but he had 'every confidence' in the work of MBC Officers.
- In a quick poll of ALGD supporters, of 190 people who replied only 57 (not even one third) had received a unique response ID from MBC. Cllr Jones asked the SPIC Chair if this low number concerned him and by what date will everyone receive their number? Chair replied that the low figure didn't concern him, and it should not concern Cllr Jones. When asked again for the date by which people will receive their ID numbers, after checking with an officer, the Chair replied he 'hoped' people will hear by 21<sup>st</sup> March. This is the date it is expected the SPIC will refer the Local Draft Plan to the Inspectorate for the Examination in Public (EiP).

Cllr Jones asked the two Borough Cllrs present why the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> March meeting does not show Parish Cllrs the courtesy of referring to them as 'Cllr'. This title was only afforded to Borough Cllrs. Also, the questions asked by Parish Cllrs / members of the public are printed in full, but the minutes do not give the response. After every question all the minutes say is 'the Chairman responded to the question'. Cllr Brindle confirmed she will investigate both points.

Cllr Jones and Sue Hardwood (ALGD) met with Save Our Heath Lands (SOHL) campaign group who are also opposing MBCs Local Plan as 5000 houses are planned for their area. Areas discussed included working together in our battle against MBC. Another meeting is planned with SOHL for 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Jones informed Cllrs that the petition had obtained 3,423 signatures in less than 3 weeks. Cllr Jones thanked all Bredhurst Cllrs and their families for signing the petition but said it was disappointing that only five of the thirteen Boxley Parish Cllrs had signed it. The petition will be presented to the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee (SPIC) on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The ALGD working group will shortly be announcing plans for the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cllr Jones and Sue Harwood took professional advice regarding attending a meeting with Hume Planning (the company developing plans for Lidsing), which was organised by Borough Cllr Hinder. After agreement with ALGD members and Bredhurst Cllrs, it was agreed that neither Cllr Jones nor Sue Harwood would attend the meeting with Hume. Neither could see any benefit in the meeting as we are not interested in any mitigation measures or financial inducements. Professional advice received raised concerns that Hume could state at the Examination in Public that they were actively working with opposers to the development.

Cllr Jones circulated an email to ALGD committee members stressing the Consultant's strong opposition to the meeting which resulted in the Chair of Boxley PC resigning from the committee. Cllr Jones therefore proposed that the Terms of Reference for the ALGD working group be amended as there is now no representative from Boxley PC on the committee. It was proposed to allow a Boxley resident to sit on the committee. This was **agreed** by Bredhurst Cllrs.

Cllr Brindle read out a prepared statement stating the meeting was a fact-finding exercise and to receive updates from the developer regarding mitigation in relation to the traffic chaos which would result from the development. Cllr Brindle stated no comments or suggestion were made to Hume Planning who proposed a Public Meeting be held. They will go back to the Borough Cllrs within 2 weeks with a suggested meeting date.

Cllr Jones and Sue Harwood stand by the professional advice received and their decision not to attend any meetings with Hume Planning.

Cllr Jones explained she is seeking advice and costs from a Barristers' Chambers that specialise in Planning issues. Once we have this information Cllrs will need to decide if we wish to proceed with this course of action which would require a fund-raising campaign.

## 566. Finance

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

Account	Balance as of 28/02/22
Unity Trust Account	£36,783.14

- 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	Onecom – January 2022	51.09	10.22	61.31	--
113	Clerk's Salary Adjustments Jan-Feb	--		--	VJ & NC
114	HMRC Payments	--		--	VJ & NC
115	Ecotricity Bill - February 2022	320.99	64.20	385.19	VJ & NC
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd – February 2022	8.82	1.76	10.58	--
DD	Onecom – February 2022	35.46	7.09	42.55	--

\* VAT to be reclaimed.

### Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
116	SLCC Joining Fee and Annual Membership	144.00		144.00	VJ & NC
117	Clerk - Defibrillator Sign – Zafety Supplies	10.35	2.07	12.42	VJ & NC
118	Clerk – Fellows 60Cs Cross Cut Shredder	70.82	14.16	84.98	VJ & NC
119	Mona Cleaning – Barn Invoice January 2022	60.00		60.00	VJ & NC
120	Mona Cleaning – Barn Invoice February 2022	45.00		45.00	VJ & NC
121	Rachel Ford – February Gardening 4 hrs	100.00		100.00	VJ & NC
122	Lucanus Playing Field Fence + Tree Clearance	225.00		225.00	VJ & NC

\* VAT to be reclaimed

Cllrs Vanessa Jones and Nichola Carr **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

- c. The 2021/22 CIL return to MBC is not required until 30 June 2022

**AP12: Clerk to submit the CIL return to MBC by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

**567. Reports from Parish Councillors**

Following agreement with Cllrs, Cllrs Jones and Carr will be at Blacksmith's Barn on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March between 10am – 12 noon to receive donation of clothes, medical supplies etc for Ukraine. Residents were also reminded that cash donations may be made direct to the British Red Cross at <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

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

Borough Cllrs updated the meeting with the proposed Boundary changes and outlined the possible effect for Bredhurst.

**569. Correspondence**

- a. Following the circulation of details to residents to facilitate street parties to be held for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, BPC did not receive any requests. It appears many residents are planning more localised / private celebrations. Cllrs **agreed** to purchase some appropriate Jubilee bunting to hang in the vicinity of Blacksmiths Barn to a maximum value of £250. As Chair of the Village Show Committee, Cllr Carr will use some of the Village Show funds which BPC has held on account for several years.

**AP13: Cllr Jones will source and purchase bunting.**

- b. Clerk has received confirmation that BPC's Precept application has been agreed by MBC.

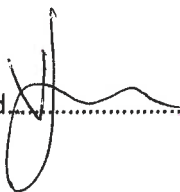
**570. Closed Session**

The Clerk's probationary period was discussed by Cllrs, and it was **agreed** it is now completed. The Clerk was thanked for his hard work since starting with us last year. It was **agreed** that Cllr Jones will approach WorkNest (formally HR Partnership Services) to clarify the clerk's annual leave allowance. It was also noted that we have received details regarding the National Salary Award 21/22. The Clerk will be paid arrears owing ASAP.

**571. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

**572. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 6.30pm**

Signed  .....

Date 6/3/22 .....