

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Blacksmiths Barn
Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 6.30pm**



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Chantelle Goodwin-Sword (Vice-Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Richard Collins, and Cllr Lee Gooda.
Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO.
Public – 8.

732. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Borough Cllrs Brindle and Bryant and Cllr Fifield.

733. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

734. Minutes of 11th January 2023 Parish Council Meeting

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

735. Police Briefing

PC Williams has informed the Clerk that the first deployment for a speed check in Bredhurst may not be until April. Due to a neighbourhood reshuffle in Kent, there will be more officers on the beat.

736. Matters Arising (for information only)

Action Points from 11-01-23

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 01-02-23
AP1	Contact Borough Cllrs to clarify future intentions.	Clerk	Completed
AP2	Arrange new Cllr set-up processes.	Clerk	Ongoing
AP3	Give go ahead to Landscape Services.	Clerk	Completed
AP4	Obtain quotes for playground signs.	Clerk	737a
AP5	Give go ahead to decorating contractor.	Cllr Jones	738a
AP6	Clerk to chase window cleaning quote.	Clerk	738b
AP7	Design Barn promotional flyer.	Cllr Goodwin-Sword	738c
AP8	Contact Greene King regarding damage to wall.	Cllr Jones	739a
AP9	Contact KCC Highways.	Clerk	739c
AP10	Submit complaint to MBC Planning re 22/505429/FULL	Clerk	Complete
AP11	Submit VAT claim.	Clerk	Complete
AP12	Respond to resident.	Clerk	Complete

737. Community Playing Field

- Playground signs not yet designed. Item taken forward to March BPC meeting.
- Cllrs discussed the recent disturbances at BVH on Saturday 28th January and implications for the community field. Cllrs agreed that locking the gate to the playing field might be necessary and noted the concerns of local residents – see Item 745 Correspondence.

738. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. Re-decoration to commence W/C 6th March. Regular hirers informed The Barn will not be available for one week.
- b. Quotes to clean the external windows of The Barn have not been received. Cllrs **agreed** to remain with the existing window cleaning arrangements.
- c. Promotional material has been produced along with a flyer which has been delivered to several local businesses. Facebook promotions have generated several booking enquiries.
- d. Cllrs discussed the payment process and **agreed** that occasional hirers to pay balance in full at the time of booking. If bookings are cancelled, 70% of booking fee refunded (administration fee of 30% retained). Regular weekly hirers of at least one booking per week to be invoiced either monthly in advance or arrears by agreement with BPC.

AP1: Cllr Jones to amend Conditions of Hire.

739. Village Maintenance

- a. Cllr Jones has spoken with Greene King to raise concerns regarding the number and frequency of accidents (three in just over a year). Greene King will also look into why their insurance company is not accepting liability for the damage to BPC's wall following an accident in September 2022, despite BPC submitting CCTV footage showing a delivery lorry to The Bell mounting the kerb.
- b. A delivery lorry to The Bell damaged railings outside the school on 25th January. The driver admitted liability and the matter has been referred to KCC Highways.
- c. BPC has replied to KCC Highways highlighting many anomalies in their recent email to BPC regarding ongoing maintenance issues. Also, on 30th January, KCC repaired numerous potholes which had been photographed and reported to KCC by Cllr Jones. Unfortunately, when they carried out the work some in Forge Lane were missed. KCC Highways have been informed. Cllr Jones also reported that the litter bin at the entrance to Strawberry Banks in Kemsley Street Road is badly damaged and needs replacing. Also, bulky waste has been stacked behind the bin for weeks and needs clearing. A response from MBC is awaited.
- d. Parish Councils are asked to submit a Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) to KCC and Cllr Jones has spoken with the KCC Officer responsible. He has some funding available and would welcome BPCs suggestions. Items discussed included more wooden bollards to stop vehicles mounting pavements, 20 MPH repeaters and roundels and the extension of kerbing outside Blacksmiths Barn. The Officer explained that systems have changed since our last request for improvements was refused and he can now work with Parishes. Once he receives our HIP, he will arrange for traffic/speed surveys to support our requests. Cllr Jones has also identified another funding source which may help towards costs.

AP2: Cllr Jones to submit HIP.

740. King's Coronation

The Coronation is a three-day event. The Coronation is on Saturday 6th May, an evening concert at Windsor Castle on Sunday 7th May and a Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May. Cllrs **agreed** to host an event at Blacksmiths Barn on the afternoon of Sunday the 7th May. Cllrs Jones has checked with the Bredhurst Village Hall Manager who confirmed they have no plans for an event that day. Cllr Jones has identified a possible funding source allowing residents to attend free of charge. An afternoon tea at The Barn was suggested with a marquee and children's activities in the garden/car park. Cllrs also suggested a commemorative bench provided funding can be sourced. Cllrs **agreed** to the purchase of additional bunting to a maximum value of £250 to be erected throughout the village. Cllrs **agreed** any additional funds required would come from the Blacksmith Barn ringfenced budget and not from the Parish precept.

AP3: Cllr Jones to follow up on available funding.

AP4: Cllr Jones to purchase bunting.

741. Planning

- a. The Inspector's has now issued his interim findings from the Stage 1 MBC Local Plan Review Hearings. He has found the Lidsing proposals in their current format to be unsound and has asked MBC for additional information which mainly relates to transport/highway issues. Although it is disappointing that the Inspector did not recommend removing the Lidsing development from MBC's Local Plan, it has been found unsound and much difficult work by MBC will be needed to satisfy the Inspector. BPC's barrister has advised us how we proceed. Once further information is submitted, BPC will need to employ the relevant consultants who assisted with the Stage 1 Hearing to examine the new evidence. It is not envisaged to be as costly as the Stage 1 Hearing, but BPC will need some additional funds. No date has been set for the Stage 2 Hearings. If the Plan gets through Stage 2 it will then progress onto detailed policy work.

Cllr Jones has spoken with Sir Paul Carter, KCC Division Member for Bredhurst who is arranging a meeting with Simon Jones, KCC Director of Growth Environment and Transport.

In addition, there is a Government Consultation – Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill / Reforms to National Planning Policy which closes on 2nd March. The consultation seeks views on the proposed approach to updating the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which could control the explosion of development seen across the country.

- b. 23/500356/PNR | Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to a flexible commercial use. For its prior approval to: Transport and Highways impacts of the development - Noise impacts of the development - Contamination risks on the site - Flooding risks on the site. | E Akhurst and Son Fencing and Paving Centre Hurst House, The Street Bredhurst Gillingham Kent ME7 3LH. Eight residents, including the applicant attended the meeting.
AP5: Clerk to submit response to MBC to reflect comments in the meeting.

742. Finance

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

Account	Balance as of 31/01/23
Unity Trust Account	£ 29,509.27

- b. The following Payments made out of and at this meeting were **agreed**. Payments made by BACS unless specified otherwise.

Payments made out of meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
DD	Onecom – Jan 2023	29.46	5.89	35.35	CGS/SB
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd – Jan 2023	8.77	1.75	10.52	CGS/SB

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
143	Every Little Nook Jan 2023	72.00		72.00	CGS/SB
144	Commercial/Landscape Services Q4 Jan 205629	487.31	97.46	584.77	CGS/SB
145	Managed Technology – Printer Charges - 31-01-23	24.65	4.93	29.58	CGS/SB
146	Cllr Jones – Vista Print Barn Flyer Invoice	26.36	5.28	31.64	CGS/SB

* VAT to be reclaimed

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

- c. Other Financial Matters – Cllrs were informed that the Parish Service Scheme grant has been increased from £1,132 to £1,166. This is paid by MBC to PCs to help grounds maintenance and play areas. In addition, there are grants available towards the cost of new notice boards.

AP6: Clerk to check criteria of notice board grant.

743. Reports from Parish Councillors

Cllrs Jones and Bowring attend this month's KALC meeting. Issues discussed included possible increases to KALC subscriptions, changes to Policing which will see 195 more PCs in Kent and increasing beat officers. Also, all officers will be trained to use speed guns as speeding traffic has been identified as a major concern.

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

None received.

745. Correspondence

A resident has contacted BPC regarding a disturbance at Bredhurst Village Hall on Saturday 28th January which resulted in damage to cars and lots of broken glass in the children's' play area which has been cleared away.

746. Closed Session – Staffing

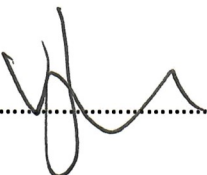

The Clerk has resigned due to a position with another Parish Council with more hours and additional responsibilities. Working for two parishes is not feasible, but he will continue working for BPC until a replacement is found. Cllrs agreed to advertise the vacancy on the KALC and Bredhurst Parish Council websites. Advert to stipulate previous experience is essential.

AP7: Clerk to send details to KALC.

747. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

748. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 1st March at 6.30pm

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