

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Blacksmiths Barn
on Wednesday 13th March 2024



Present:

Cllr Vanessa Jones, (Chair), Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Dan Fifield, Cllr Andrew Lawrence and Cllr Claire Sharp.

Clerk - Wendy Licence

Public - None

895. Councillor Vacancy

Cllr Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to co-opt Mr Andrew Lawrence to the Parish Council; Cllr Lawrence signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Officer in the presence of the Clerk. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to co-opt Mrs Vanessa Jones to the Parish Council; Cllr Jones signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Officer in the presence of the Clerk.

896. Election of Chairman

Cllr Collins **PROPOSED** Cllr Jones for the office of Chairman: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**; Cllr Jones signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Officer in the presence of the Clerk.

897. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Gooda and Harwood; apologies accepted.

898. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

899. Minutes of 16 January 2024 Parish Council Meeting

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record, Cllr Jones duly signed the minutes as a true record.

Public Participation Time

No members of the public were present.

900. Visitors

Item deferred.

901. Planning

To receive an update regarding MBC's Local Plan Review / Lidsing Garden Development. Cllr Jones informed Members that the Planning Inspectorate had concluded that revised Maidstone Borough Local Plan is sound subject to numerous main modifications being incorporated. If adopted, the development could start in four years. The Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee (PIED) will meet on Monday 18th March to discuss adoption of the Local Plan, and this will also be discussed at Cabinet on Tuesday 19th. Full Council will meet on Wednesday 20th March and will vote on whether to adopt the Local Plan.

AP1: Clerk to put Planning Inspectorate report and appendices on the website.

Cllr Jones reported that other parishes and consultants will be fighting the Inspector's recommendation. There will be a protest outside the Town Hall at 5.45pm on Wednesday 20th March, residents to be contacted by email.

AP2: Clerk to email residents.

Cllr Lawrence will speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Full Council meeting on 20th March. Cllr Jones will speak in her capacity as Ward Member.

AP3: Clerk to inform Democratic Services.

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £2,500 for further expert advice;
SECONDED by Cllr Sharp: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

902. Open Spaces

- a) To receive an update
- b) To consider play area inspection reports and quotation.
Items deferred.

903. Blacksmiths Barn

It was agreed to permit a charity event at the barn and to waive the fee.

AP4: Clerk to notify hirer.

904. Village Maintenance

- a) To receive an update
- b) To consider quotations for notice board
Items deferred.

905. Finance

- a) Cllrs agreed the bank reconciliation.
- b) Financial statements overdue and had not been prepared. *Item deferred.*
AP5: Clerk to prepare 3rd and 4th quarter statements for April agenda.
- c) Payments - to consider invoices for payment.

Payments made out of meeting:

| Ref | Payee | Details | Amount | VAT* | Total |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 147 | NEST | Staff Pension | | | - |
| 148 | Bytes | IT Support | 8.77 | 1.75 | £10.52 |
| 149 | Safeplay | Ply Area Inspection | 52.50 | 10.50 | 63.00 |
| 150 | OneComm SVS Ltd | | 33.70 | 6.74 | £40.44 |
| 151 | Landmark Chambers | LPR Advice | 2,500.00 | 500.00 | £3,000.00 |
| 152 | Commercial Services | Village Grass Cutting | 271.63 | 54.33 | 325.96 |
| 153 | Ecotricity | Blacksmiths Barn | 532.67 | 106.53 | 639.20 |
| 158 | BYTES | | 8.77 | 1.75 | 10.52 |

Payments for authorising at meeting:

| Ref | Payee | Details | Amount | VAT* | Total | Auth |
|-----|------------|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| 154 | Safeplay | Play Area Inspection | 55.00 | 11.00 | 66.00 | |
| 155 | Clerk - WL | Salary / Office | | | | |
| 156 | HMRC | Clerk - PAYE/NI | | | | |
| 157 | NEST | Clerk - Pension | | | | |
| 159 | OneComm | | 33.70 | 6.74 | 40.44 | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--|
| 160 | Every Little Nook | Barn Cleaning - Jan | | | 89.50 | |
| 161 | Safeplay | | | | 66.00 | |
| 162 | Ecotricity | Blacksmiths Barn | 423.25 | 84.65 | 507.90 | |
| 163 | Every Little Nook | Barn Cleaning - Feb | 64.00 | | 64.00 | |
| 164 | Clerk - WL | Salary/Office | | | | |
| 165 | HMRC | Clerk – PAYE/NI | | | | |
| 166 | Rachel Ford | Gardening – Feb 2hrs | | | 55.00 | |
| 167 | Bespoke Property Services | Transport Consultant Advice (Lidsing) | 1470.00 | 294.00 | 1764.00 | |

d) To consider membership of CPRE
Item deferred.

e) Any other financial matters

Receipts

| | | Details | Amount |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 19.01.24 | Maidstone Borough Council | Notice board grant | £525.00 |
| 29.01.24 | HMRC | VAT reclaim | £1,765.12 |

906. Report from Parish Councillors

Item deferred.

907. Correspondence

None

908. Staffing Matters

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press will be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Staffing Matters

Cllrs agreed unanimously to extend the Clerk's probation period by 3 months.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Date of Next Meeting: 10 April 2024

10/4/23