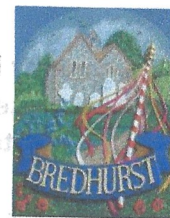


BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Blacksmiths Barn

Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 6.30pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring (Vice Chair), Cllr Dan Fifield, Cllr Claire Sharp, and Cllr Lee Gooda (left meeting at 19.50hrs)
Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO
Public – 2

769. Apologies for Absence

Received from Borough Cllrs Hinder and Brindle.

770. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

771. Minutes of 1st March 2023 Parish Council Meeting

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

772. Police Briefing

On 25th March a drill was stolen from a property in The Street.

No other crimes reported.

773. Matters Arising (for information only)

Action Points from 01-03-23

Action Points	Actions	Clerk/Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 05-04-23
AP1	Update Cllr details with MBC & UTB	Clerk	Completed
AP2	Email election information to residents	Clerk	Completed
AP3	Order replacement playground sign	Clerk	775
AP4	Review H&S documents	Cllr Gooda	776
AP5	Advertise the Great Bredhurst Spring Clean	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP6	Purchase bunting	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP7	Re-launch Against Lidsing funding appeal	Cllr Jones/Clerk	Completed
AP8	Obtain information re notice board grants from MBC	Clerk	780c
AP9	Obtain quote to repair notice board at The Green	Cllr Jones	777c
AP10	Contact resident re hire of field for community event	Clerk	Completed
AP11	Purchase new laptop for Clerk	Cllr Jones	Completed

774. Maidstone Borough Council Elections – 4th May

Cllrs reminded of important dates. BPC have circulated details to residents and will send follow up emails.

Election timetable:

- 5th April Statement of persons nominated published.
- 17th April Last date for voters to register.
- 18th April Last date to apply for a postal vote.
- 20th April Postal votes issued.
- 25th April Last date to apply for a proxy vote.
- 25th April Last date to apply for a voter authority certificate (VAC).
- 4th May Election Day

775. Community Playing Field.

Cllrs discussed a quote received for an updated playground sign and agreed to obtain additional quotes.

AP1: Clerk to obtain quotes.

776. Blacksmiths Barn.

Cllrs agreed to defer H&S discussions to next month's meeting.

AP2: Cllr Gooda to review documents.

777. Village Maintenance

- a. Cllr Jones has negotiated a £200 gesture of goodwill payment from Greene King which will be used towards the cost of repairs to the damaged wall outside The Bell. Payment is awaited.
- b. Thanks to many volunteers who helped with the Great Bredhurst Spring Clean on 2nd April. Several bags of rubbish were collected and street signs were cleaned. Thanks to a resident who has offered to regularly clean all village signs.
- c. Cllrs agreed to a quote of £350 to repair the Parish noticeboard in the centre of the village. New support posts will be fitted and concreted into place.

AP3: Clerk to instruct contractor.

- d. In conjunction with Bredhurst's Highway Improvement Plan, KCC have carried out two speed surveys which recorded average speeds of 23.9mph. Cllr Jones has told KCC this is not a true representation of traffic speeds and asked why readings were taken immediately next to speed humps and, therefore, speeds would be lower than elsewhere in the village. KCC will consider if the data obtained will support additional traffic calming measures or if more surveys are needed.
- e. Cllr Jones has complained to Bredhurst's KCC Cllr, Sir Paul Carter, who has agreed to investigate why micro surfacing works to The Street were not properly completed.

AP4: Cllr Jones to continue to liaise with Sir Paul Carter.

778. King's Coronation Event

From funding provided from Sir Paul Carter's KCC Combined Members Grant of £1,850, Cllrs agreed to expenditure for bunting, a jazz band, buffet to be provided at half price by The Bell, Trainmaster (children's activity) and celebration cake. The surplus of £165 to be spent on related miscellaneous items.

AP5: Cllr Jones to arrange purchases.

779. Planning

- a. Cllrs were informed, since the Against Lidsing GoFundMe was launched 3 days ago, £6,718 has been donated. BPC's maximum contribution is £10,444. Cllrs agreed to a budget of £20,000 for legal representation at the Stage 2 Local Plan Hearing in May.

AP6: Cllr Jones to instruct and liaise with barrister and consultants.

- b. **MC/23/0284** | Construction of 88 dwellings (including 25% affordable) together with associated parking, access, open space, landscaping and SuDS | Land at Blowers Wood Maidstone Road Hempstead Gillingham Medway.

Cllrs ratified BPC's objection which has already been submitted to Medway Council.

- c. **MC/21/1296** | Outline Application (with all matters reserved except access) for the erection of up to 450 market and affordable dwellings, nursery and supporting retail space up to 85sqm, with provision of main access to Ham Lane; estate roads; cycle and pedestrian routes; residential and community open space and landscaping; new junction for Lidsing Road/Hempstead Road and realignment and widening of Lidsing Road. Offsite related highway works to Westfield Sole Road, Shawstead Road, Hempstead Road, Chapel Lane, Hempstead Valley Drive, Hoath Way roundabout, Hoath Way and M2 Junction 4 - Resubmission of **MC/19/0336** | Gibraltar Farm Ham Lane Hempstead Gillingham Medway ME7 3JJ.

AP7: Clerk to circulate BPC's objection to Cllrs for approval prior to submission to Medway Council by 13th April and Maidstone Borough Council by 20th April.

- d. **23/501264/LDCEX** | Address: Land at Blacksmiths Court Bredhurst Kent ME7 3JU
 Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for installation of a sliding gate across a shared private access. Applicant: Blacksmiths Court Development Ltd
 Cllrs agreed no comment.

780. Finance

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

Account	Balance as of 31/03/23
Unity Trust Account	£ 32,168.00

- 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
155	Clerks Salary + Office Rental - March	--		--	SO
156	HMRC – PAYE - March	--		--	SO
DD	Onecom - Inv. 752179 - March	29.46	5.89	35.35	DD
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd - Feb	8.77	1.75	10.52	DD

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
3	Cllr Bowring - Parish Laptop - Inv. 25325768	565.83	113.17	679.00	CS & DF
4	BBM Promotions - Coronation Bunting	350.00		350.00	CS & DF
5	Mike Searley - Barn Grass Cutting - March	25.00		25.00	CS & DF
6	Managed Technology Inv. 142858 - Printing	12.48	2.50	14.98	CS & DF
7	Savills - Q1 Playing Fields Lease	137.50		137.50	CS & DF
8	Every Little Nook - Barn Cleaning March	65.50		65.50	CS & DF
9	Rachel Ford - Gardening - March (8 Hours)	200.00		200.00	CS & DF

* VAT to be reclaimed

Cllrs Sharp and Fifield **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

- c. Awaiting details from MBC re noticeboard grants.

AP8: Clerk to obtain.

- d. EOY budget discussed. Salary costs overspend due to national pay award for Clerks.
 e. Cllr **agreed** The Barn grass cutting price of £20 per cut and £25 when strimming/hedge is cut.
 Cllrs **agreed** to continue with BYTES contract for Microsoft 365 and to purchase Norton 360.

AP9: Clerk to purchase Norton 360.

781. Reports from Parish Councillors

No reports received.

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

No reports received.

783. Correspondence

None received.

784. Closed Session – Staffing

Cllrs **agreed** to appoint Helen Elstone as Clerk and RFO with effect from 18th April. Cllrs thanked Steve Hill for his services and wished him well in his new post at Watlington PC.

785. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

786. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 24th May at 6.30pm

Signed

Date _____

24 | 5 | 23