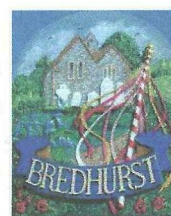


**BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**  
**Blacksmiths Barn**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.00pm**



**Present:** Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Greg Davis (Vice Chair), Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Sue Harwood, Cllr Ian Hopson, Cllr Claire Sharp  
 Melanie Fooks – Clerk & RFO  
 2 members of the public

**392/26 Apologies for Absence**  
 Apologies **accepted** from MBC Cllr Thompson.

**393/26 Declarations of Interest**  
 None.

**394/26 Motion to exclude the press and public from all items in the Closed Session.**  
 Cllr Davis proposed, seconded by Cllr Harwood **agreed** by all Cllrs. Cllr Jones proposed, seconded by Cllr Harwood to move Item 410/26 to the closed session due to the nature of the correspondence. Motion **agreed** by all Cllrs.

**395/26 Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Parish Council Meeting and Closed Session.**  
 The minutes were **agreed** by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

**396/26 Matters Arising (for information only)**  
**Action Points from 14-01-26**

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item on 11/03/26
AP1	Investigate funding towards safety surface	Clerk	Ongoing
AP2	Inform gardener of their contract renewal	Clerk	Completed
AP3	Contact regular hirer re hire charge	Clerk	Completed
AP4	Contact UTB re BVH change of signatories	Clerk	Ongoing
AP5	Update BVH website re booking enquiries	Clerk	Completed
AP6	Contact Britvic to remove equipment at BVH	Clerk	Completed
AP7	Submit response to MBC re 25/505221/EIASCO	Clerk	Completed
AP8	Respond to consultation on Radio Base Station upgrade if necessary.	Clerk	Completed
AP9	Submit precept request to MBC	Clerk	Completed
AP10	Confirm KCC 26-27 Internal Audit contract	Clerk	Completed
AP11	Confirm with KCC that BPC has permission to conduct works to the verge in Forge Lane outside Blacksmith Barn	Clerk	Completed
AP12	Confirm meeting with KCC Cllr on 22 January 2026	Clerk	Completed

**There was a short public session.**

**397/26 Police**  
 There were no crimes reported during January/February.

**398/26 Community Playing Field**

- Cllrs **noted** weekly and quarterly inspection reports for January and February and actions required.
- Cllrs unanimously **agreed** to allow the field to be used for Hazlitt Theatre’s Open-Air production of Peter Rabbit on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, providing the village hall is not in use and to ask the Fish and Chip Van and Ice Cream Van to attend as they were so popular last year.

**AP1: Clerk to confirm booking with the Hazlitt Theatre and caterers.**

**399/26 Blacksmiths Barn**

- a. Cllrs reviewed the Barn’s hire rates. Cllr Jones proposed, Cllr Davis seconded with all in favour to increase the resident/regular hire rate to £18.00 and commercial/non-affiliated rate to £24.00, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. Terms and Conditions to be amended as discussed.

**AP2: Clerk to notify hirers and amend T&Cs.**

**400/26 Bredhurst Village Hall**

- a. **Received and noted** BVH’s accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

- b. **Received and noted** the minutes of the **December** and **January** committee meetings. Cllr Sharp proposed, Cllr Collins seconded with all in favour to arrange preliminary talks with architects. A maximum budget of £3,000 was **agreed**.

**AP3: Cllr Jones to contact architects.**

- c. Bredhurst Primary School Emergency Management and Business Continuity Plan was added to the agenda at the request of the school. They subsequently informed BPC they have made alternative arrangements and no longer require assistance from BPC.

- d. Cllrs considered the T&Cs. Cllr Davis requested the ‘Prevent Duty’ clause be included. It was agreed that a model Hire Conditions template is sought from ACRE for discussion at the next Village Hall Committee meeting.

**AP4: Clerk to contact ACRE.**

- e. Other Village Hall Matters

- Cllrs thanked the Church Charity Shop for their donation to the Village Hall of £500. It was decided to use this towards the installation of the car park gate.

**AP5: Clerk to write to Mrs June Cox.**

- It was confirmed the gate to the Village Hall car park will be installed on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**AP6: Clerk to confirm details with the contractor.**

**401/26 Village Maintenance**

- a. The Clerk highlighted the increase of rubbish throughout the village. It was **agreed** to set up regular litter picks to be held on the first Saturday in the month. Cllr Hopson will lead this initiative. The first event will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, at 10.30am meeting at Blacksmith Barn.

**AP7: Clerk to circulate poster.**

**402/26 Planning**

- a. Cllr Jones provided an update on the Lidsing Supplementary Planning Document. Following the recent consultation over 70 amendments have now been made. In addition, Cllr Jones, along with fellow Ward Cllr, Stephen Thompson, proposed further amendments with all being agreed at the MBC Cabinet meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February. The promoter of the site is holding a consultation event at Blacksmith Barn on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm-8pm, to provide details of the next stage of the process which is the submission of an outline planning application to MBC.

**403/26 Finance**

- a. The financial statements and bank reconciliations for P/E 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 were **agreed** by all Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

- b. All payments made out of and at meeting were **agreed** by Cllrs.

Cllrs Sharp and Davis were nominated to authorise forthcoming payments.

**Payments made out of meeting.**

Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
Safepay Ltd – Quarterly Playground Inspection – Jan	56.25	11.25	67.50	IH/CS
Every Little Nook – Barn Cleaning - December Inv. 0156	66.50	-	66.50	IH/CS
Onecom Ltd – Barn Internet	38.69	7.74	46.43	IH/CS
Nest Pensions – January Contributions	-	-	-	IH/CS
Clerk’s Salary and Office Rental – December	-	-	-	IH/CS
HMRC – December Contributions	-	-	-	IH/CS
CPRE Annual Subscription	36.00	-	36.00	IH/CS

EDF Energy – December Bill	234.05	11.70	245.75	IH/CS
BCTec Ltd 365 Microsoft Subscriptions Inv. 33041	31.30	6.26	37.56	IH/CS
Scribe Accounting – February	37.00	7.40	44.40	IH/CS

#### Payments made at meeting

Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
TEEC Bredhurstpc.org.uk domain renewal	30.00	6.00	36.00	CS/GD
EDF Energy – Barn Heating – January	405.06	81.01	486.07	CS/GD
Every Little Nook – Barn Cleaning - January Inv. 0157	66.50	-	66.50	CS/GD
BCTec Ltd Tech Support Inv. 33287	141.90	28.38	170.28	CS/GD
Boyds PAT Testing Blacksmith Barn & Office	79.20	15.84	95.04	CS/GD
Returned Barn Deposit Ref 122-25/26	100.00	-	100.00	CS/GD

\* VAT to be reclaimed.

- c. **Received** and **accepted** Lloyds Corporate Multipay Card expenditure for January.
- d. **Noted** receipts and payments for all accounts for the period 01/01/2026 - 31/01/2026.
- e. Cllrs received and noted the Parish Services Scheme Grant for 2026-27. This has increased by 3% to £1,310 but must be offset against grounds maintenance and play areas.
- f. Cllrs **received** and **approved** the Q3 budget monitoring report.
- g. Cllrs **received** and **noted** Q2 & Q3 VAT refund of £1,470.73.
- h. Cllrs **noted** KCC's next internal audit, (Visit 2, AGAR) is scheduled for Wednesday 22 April 2026.

**404/26 Policies and Procedures** – The following policies were **reviewed** and **accepted** with no changes.

- a. Debit Card Use
- b. No Mow May Policy
- c. Meeting Attendance Policy

**405/26 Highways**

- a. KCC have confirmed the PC does not require their permission to proceed with works to the footpath along Forge Lane outside Blacksmith Barn.  
**AP8: Clerk to use KCC drawings and obtain quotes from contractors.**
- b. Cllr Jones and the Clerk met with Emily Rodgers, Ryan Shiel, of KCC together with KCC Cllr Dixon regarding the road narrowing proposals. It was confirmed that speed cushions will **not** be removed. Edge of carriageway white lining indicating the single width of the road will be carried out and additional signage will be installed. A date has not been given for the start of this project. To stop cars mounting the kerb and to retain the legal width of the footpath, it was suggested the grass verge be cut back which would enable wooden bollards to be installed along the edge of the footpath. KCC will investigate ownership of the verge and how far it would need to be cut back. This could be funded from Cllr Dixon's Active Travel Highways budget.
- c. Parking issues in Fir Tree Grove were discussed. Cllr Dixon proposed a joint meeting with the school.  
**AP9: Clerk to contact the school and liaise with Cllr Dixon.**

**406/26 Speedwatch**

Since Speedwatch was launched in October 2025, Cllrs and volunteers have held 14-hour long sessions. All data is automatically shared with Kent Police. This has resulted in 204 notices issued by Kent Police. We recorded 42 vehicles travelling at more than twice the legal speed limit, an average of 19 speeding vehicles per hour, maximum recorded speed was 47mph, 9 vehicles with no MOT, 4 with no tax and 1 SORN vehicle. Thanks to all involved.

**407/26 Consultations**

- a. Local Government Reorganisation [Outline](#) - [Kent and Medway Consultation](#) – **Deadline 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. Government guidance requires proposed Unitary Authorities to have between 500,000 to 600,00 residents. BPC agreed to support the West Kent Option 3 as this aligns with existing Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, and NHS boundaries, supporting better collaboration between councils and other essential services. It also offers the greatest savings and

one of the quickest payback periods. Government will announce their decision on which Unitary Authorities will be established in July 2026, Unitary Authority Cllr elections will be held in May 2027. From May 2027 to May 2028 the new Unitary Authority Cllrs will work with existing MBC Cllrs whose term ends in May 28 when the Unitary Authorities will fully take over.

b. [Maidstone Parish and Town Members Allowance Questionnaire](#) – Deadline 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**AP10: Clerk and Chair to complete both consultations on behalf of the Parish Council.**

**AP11: Clerk to circulate LGR information to residents.**

**408/26 Councillor/Clerk Training**

None.

**409/26 Reports from Parish, Borough, and County Councillors (if present)**

Covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**410/26 Correspondence**

The following correspondence was **received** and **noted**:

- Maidstone KALC Area Committee Minutes – January 2026
- Correspondence from an ex-resident – taken in the closed session.

**411/26 Closed Session**

Items covered and minuted separately:

Personnel matters

Bredhurst Village Hall

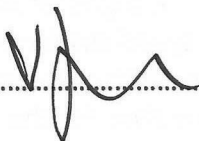
Correspondence

**412/26 Close of Meeting**

Meeting closed at 8.45pm with no further business to discuss.

**413/26 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00pm**

Signed.....



Date.....

11/3/26.....