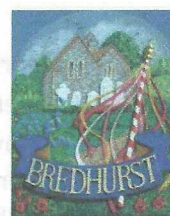


BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Blacksmiths Barn

Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.00pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Greg Davis (Vice Chair), Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Sue Harwood, Cllr Ian Hopson and Borough Cllr Stephen Thompson.
Melanie Fooks - Clerk & RFO
Members of the public - 2

414/26 Apologies for Absence
Apologies **accepted** from Cllr Claire Sharp.

415/26 Declarations of Interest
None.

416/26 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.

417/26 Minutes of the 12th February 2026 Parish Council Meeting and Closed Session.
The minutes were **agreed** by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

418/26 Matters Arising (for information only)
Action Points from 12-02-26:

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item on 11/03/26
AP1	Confirm Open Air Production with Hazlitt Theatre and Caterers.	Clerk/ Cllr Jones	Completed
AP2	Inform Blacksmiths Barn Hirers of rate increase and amend hire conditions.	Clerk	Completed
AP3	Contact Architects to engage in preliminary talks regarding refurbishment of Village Hall.	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP4	Contact ACRE regarding model hire conditions template for Village Hall.	Clerk	Completed
AP5	Send letter of thanks to Mrs June Cox for the donation from the Church Charity Shop to BVH.	Clerk	Completed
AP6	Confirm position of BVH gate with the contractor.	Clerk	Completed
AP7	Circulate litter picking poster to residents via email/WhatsApp/Facebook.	Clerk/ Cllr Jones	Completed
AP8	Obtain quotes from contractors for kerb installation along Forge Lane outside Blacksmiths Barn.	Clerk	Ongoing
AP9	Arrange meeting between KCC Cllr, School and BPC.	Clerk	Ongoing
AP10	Complete MBC Parish and Town Members Allowance questionnaire.	Clerk/ Cllr Jones	Completed
AP11	Circulate LGR Consultation information to residents.	Clerk	Completed
	Previous Month's Outstanding Actions		
	Request quotes for work identified in FRA for BVH.	Clerk	Ongoing
	Clerk to investigate additional funding towards safety surface.	Clerk	Ongoing

There was a short public session.

419/26 Police

Crimes reported during February/March

- A Ford transit was stolen from Lidsing Road on 22nd February. Crime Report No. 46/29930/26

- A garage was broken into in The Street, Bredhurst on 24th February. A motorbike and bicycle were stolen. Crime Report No. 46/30577/26
- Following information supplied to the Police by residents regarding an off-road vehicle trespassing on private land, which included the van's registration in which the bike had been transported to Bredhurst, the Police visited the registered owner and issued a warning.

420/26 Community Playing Field

- a. Cllrs **noted** weekly and quarterly inspection reports for February and March and actions required.
- b. Cllrs were informed the grounds maintenance team had carried out the first cut of the season and they had been notified of the 'No Mow May' policy.

421/26 Blacksmiths Barn

- a. The Clerk updated Cllrs on regular hirers including a new hire starting in April for Chair Yoga.
- b. Cllrs unanimously agreed to adopt the revised hire conditions to include the 'prevent duty' clause.

AP1: Clerk to circulate revised hire conditions.

422/26 Bredhurst Village Hall

- a. **Received** and **noted** BVH's accounts from 1st February 2026 – 28th February 2026.
- b. **Received** and **noted** the minutes of the **March** committee meeting.
- c. Cllrs **received** and unanimously **agreed** the following recommendations from the BVH March Committee meeting:

- Contact the Diocese regarding the Heads of Terms lease.

AP2: Cllr Jones to contact the Diocese.

- Agree a BVH charity hire rate of £35.00 for 21 Together, a Downs Syndrome charity holding a fundraising Zumbathon.
- To meet with Taylor Roberts Architects at the Village Hall on 17th March for preliminary refurbishment discussions.

AP3: Clerk & Cllr Jones to attend meeting.

- Contact project advisors BBL with a wish list of requirements for the Village Hall. He will then arrange an appointment with an Architect.

AP4: Cllr Jones to contact BBL.

- The committee recommended adopting the new hire conditions, which included the 'prevent duty' clause, and a hire application form.
- Committee recommended adopting the BVH Committee policy pack and safeguarding policy.

AP5: Clerk to publish new policies.

423/26 Village Maintenance

Boxley residents were thanked for litter picking Dunn Street/Lidsing Road crossroads area. They collected 39 bags plus 14 tyres. The village litter pick was attended by 14 residents from Bredhurst and Lordswood collecting 21 bags of rubbish. Monthly litter picks will continue on the first Saturday in the month, meeting at Blacksmiths Barn at 10am. Details will be advertised nearer the time.

AP6: Clerk to publish dates.

424/26 Planning

- a. Cllr Jones confirmed the Lidsing Garden Development SPD had now been adopted by MBC. The next stage will be the submission of planning application documents to MBC.
- b. Lidsing Consultation by Hulme Planning – Blacksmiths Barn 17th March 2026, 3.30pm – 7.30pm. Cllrs will also be on hand to answer questions regarding Local Government Reorganisation.

425/26 Finance

- a. The financial statements and bank reconciliations for P/E 28th February 2026 were **agreed** by all Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

Unity Trust Bank Accounts as at 28/02/2025	
Bredhurst Parish Council	£ 33,468.65
Blacksmith Barn	£ 10,007.56
Bredhurst Village Hall	£ 29,742.19

- b. All payments made out of and at meeting were **agreed** by Cllrs.
Cllrs Harwood and Collins were nominated to authorise forthcoming payments.

Payments made out of meeting:

Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
Lloyds Corporate Multipay Card (LCMC) – Monthly Fee	3.00	-	3.00	GD/CS
Nest Pensions February Contributions	-	-	-	GD/CS
Westbury Signs – ‘No Parking’ signs Blacksmith Barn	210.00	42.00	252.00	GD/CS
Managed Technology - BPC Printing	271.45	54.29	325.74	GD/CS
Clerk’s Salary and Office Rental – February	-	-	-	GD/CS
HMRC – February Contributions	-	-	-	GD/CS
OneCom – Barn Internet	38.69	7.74	46.43	GD/CS
UTB Monthly Charge – PC	6.00	-	6.00	GD/CS
UTB Monthly Charge - BB	6.00	-	6.00	GD/CS
Scribe Accounting – March	37.00	7.40	44.40	GD/CS
Every Little Nook – Barn Cleaning	64.00	-	64.00	GD/CS
BCTec 365 Microsoft Subscription	32.90	6.58	39.48	GD/CS
LCMC - Step ladder for Barn - Screwfix	55.82	11.17	66.99	GD/CS

Payments made at meeting:

Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
EDF Energy – Barn heating/electricity	258.70	51.74	310.44	SH/RC
LCMC March Statement Monthly Fee + Adhesive Remover	11.32	1.67	12.99	SH/RC
UTB Monthly Charge – PC March	7.00	-	7.00	SH/RC
UTB Monthly Charge – BB March	7.00	-	7.00	SH/RC
Business Stream – Allotment Water Bill Dec – Mar 26	20.01	-	20.01	SH/RC

* VAT to be reclaimed.

- c. **Noted** receipts and payments for all accounts for the period 01/02/2026 - 28/02/2026.
d. Cllrs **noted** the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) has increased banking deposit protection limit from £85,000 to £120,000.

426/26 Policies and Procedures

Cllr Davis proposed, seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour to approve and adopt the following policies and procedures:

- Risk Management Policy with minor amendments
- Asset Register
- Financial Regulations
- Financial Transaction Policy with minor amendments

AP7: Clerk to amend and publish policies.

427/26 Highways

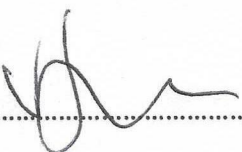
Highways Improvement Plan:

- KCC has confirmed that instructions have been given to go ahead with the road narrowing in Dunn Street Road from Meynell to Kingsmead House. The work will be in the new financial year, and the PC will be kept updated with its progress.
- KCC has confirmed that there has been no development on the potential footpath widening in this area. It could become a substantial scheme that may take some time to progress, ownership of the grass verge and permission is to be sought.

AP8: Clerk to keep in contact with KCC.

- At the request of KCC Cllr Dixon, the Clerk has confirmed that she is attempting to arrange a meeting between KCC, the school, and BPC regarding parking issues in the vicinity of the school.
- AP9: Clerk to contact the school and liaise with Cllr Dixon.**

- 428/26 Speedwatch**
Cllr Hopson confirmed that two sessions had been held in the last month which identified 30% of vehicles were speeding through Bredhurst. Since the launch of Bredhurst Speedwatch, Kent Police have issued over 200 letters. Letters are issued when vehicles exceed the 20mph speed limit by 12%.
- 429/26 Consultations**
- MBC Community Energy – Parish Survey was completed and submitted by the Clerk and Cllr Jones.
 - Local Government Reorganisation – The Clerk and Cllr Jones submitted the PC’s response and encouraged residents to respond. Further information on LGR will be shared at the Lidsing Consultation on 17th March.
 - Public Rights of Way Statement of Priorities - It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Jones will complete this consultation.
- AP10: Clerk & Cllr Jones to complete consultation.**
- 430/26 Councillor/Clerk Training**
None.
- 431/26 Reports from Parish, Borough, and County Councillors (if present)**
MBC Cllr Stephen Thompson wished it to be noted that Cllr Jones had a huge impact on the improvements made to the Lidsing Garden Development SPD and he thanked her for her work.
- 432/26 Correspondence**
The following correspondence was **received and noted**:
- KALC March News
 - MBC February Parish Newsletter
 - KALC Training Bulletin
- 433/26 Closed Session**
Items covered and minuted separately:
- Personnel matters
 - Bredhurst Village Hall
 - Enforcement
 - Correspondence
- 434/26 Close of Meeting**
Meeting closed at 8.30pm with no further business to discuss.
- 435/26 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7.00pm**

Signed.....

Date.....