

# **BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council  
Blacksmiths Barn  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm



**Present:** Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Sue Harwood, Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Lee Gooda and Cllr Greg Davis.  
Steve Hill – Locum Clerk & RFO  
Public – 2

**Acceptance of Office declarations were signed by all Cllrs present: Vanessa Jones, Sue Harwood, Richard Collins and Lee Gooda. All declarations were signed and witnessed by the Clerk.**

## **24/14 Apologies for Absence**

None received.

## **24/15 Election of Chair and Vice Chair and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Vanessa Jones was elected as Chair which was unanimously **agreed** by all Cllrs. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed by the Clerk. Election of Vice Chair was deferred to June's meeting.

## **24/16 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

## **24/17 Co-option of Parish Councillor**

Greg Davis was co-opted to join Bredhurst Parish Council which was unanimously **agreed** all Cllrs. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

## **24/18 Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Parish Council Meeting**

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

## **Public Open Session**

A Maidstone resident read a pre-prepared statement outlining her views of the Local Plan and the implications of not having one. Her concerns were in connection with the Lidsing development and the possibility that action being taken by Bredhurst Parish Council could adversely affect the adopted Local Plan.

## **24/19 Committees and Election of Representatives**

It was **agreed** that Bredhurst Parish Council's Personnel Committee would consist of the following:

- Cllr Vanessa Jones
- Cllr Richard Collins
- Cllrs Lee Gooda
- Cllr Sue Harwood

The representative for KALC will be deferred until the next Parish meetings. It was decided that no other committees were required.

## **24/20 Annual Review of Policies and Procedures**

It was **agreed** the existing policies and procedures are approved with minor typographical errors corrected.

## 24/21 Police

There were no reported incidents in Bredhurst in April.

## 24/22 Matters Arising (for information only)

### Action Points from 10-04-24

| Action Points | Actions   | Clerk or Cllr | Completed or new Agenda Item on 14-05-24 |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| AP1           | Check Hazlitt open air theatre group dates with Village Hall  | Cllr Jones    | Completed                                |
| AP2           | Hempstead resident is interested in becoming Cllr for BPC, information of current vacancy will be provided. | Cllr Jones    | Completed                                |

## 24/23 Community Playing Fields

- Play equipment repairs have not been chased and is outstanding from January.  
**AP1 – Cllr Jones to contact contractor.**
- Annual Inspection report has now been received, with only minor issues reported – Noted.

## 24/24 Blacksmith Barn

The carving of the tree stump in the gardens of the Barn is due to be carried out on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

## 24/25 Planning

BPC's high court legal challenge in relation to MBCs Local Plan is progressing well. 10,000 leaflets advertising the fund-raising campaign have been printed and volunteers are delivering them in Bredhurst, Hempstead, Wigmore, Parkwood and Rainham. All areas in Lordswood and Walderslade which come under MBC have already had leaflets with the areas under Medway Council to receive theirs soon.

## 24/26 Finance

- The financial statement and bank reconciliation for P/E 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was **agreed** by all Cllrs.
- All payments made out of and at meeting were **agreed** by Cllrs.

### Payments made out of meeting.

| Ref: | Details                          | Amount | VAT*  | Total  | Auth    |
|------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| 10   | Bytes - April Inv. 1274769       | 8.77   | 1.75  | 10.52  | SH / RC |
| 11   | Clerk WL - HMRC SDDS             | 134.71 | -     | 134.71 | SH / RC |
| 12   | ICO - Annual Renewal             | 35.00  | -     | 35.00  | SH / RC |
| 13   | Ecotricity – Inv. 04954687423.62 | 423.62 | 21.18 | 444.80 | SH / RC |
| 14   | Onecom – Inv. 7049780            | 36.36  | 7.27  | 42.63  | SH / RC |

\* VAT to be reclaimed.

### Payments for authorising at meeting

| Ref: | Details   | Amount   | VAT*    | Total    | Auth    |
|------|---|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 15   | Safeplay Playground Services – Inv. 26653       | 55.00    | 11.00   | 66.00    | SH / RC |
| 16   | Leigh Day - <b>Leigh Day Fees</b> – Inv. 122750 | 5,200.00 | 1040.00 | 6,240.00 | SH / RC |
| 17   | Leigh Day - <b>Counsel Fees</b> – Inv. 122750   | 2,669.00 | -       | 2,669.00 | SH / RC |
| 18   | Mike Searly - Barn Grass Cutting - April        | 50.00    | -       | 50.00    | SH / RC |
| 19   | KALC - Annual Subscription – Inv. 9068          | 214.22   | 42.84   | 257.06   | SH / RC |
| 20   | Every Little Nook - April – Inv.0052            | 68.00    | -       | 68.00    | SH / RC |
| 21   | Rachel Ford - Gardening 8hrs – April            | 220.00   | -       | 220.00   | SH / RC |
| 22   | Ecotricity – Inv.05076928                       | 233.06   | 11.65   | 244.71   | SH / RC |
| 23   | DHDA - Lidsing Leaflets – Inv. 1648             | 525.00   | -       | 525.00   | SH / RC |

\* VAT to be reclaimed. / Cllrs Harwood and Cllr Collins **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

- c. An invoice from KALC for course which was cancelled by a previous Clerk was not paid. KALC have been informed and apologised for the error.
- d. It was agreed to inform UTB of personnel changes. Cllr Collins and Gooda agreed to resolve access issues they are experiencing with UTB.

**AP2 – Cllr Jones to notify UTB.**

**AP3 – Cllr Collins and Gooda to rectify UTB issues.**

**24/27 Reports from Parish Councillors**

No reports from councillors received.

**24/28 Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

In her capacity as Borough Cllr, Cllr Jones explained MBC is now led by a coalition between the Green and Independent Alliance and the Liberal Democrats. Cllr Stuart Jeffrey, Green Party, will be proposed as leader of MBC along with details of Cabinet Members at the Full Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**24/29 Correspondence**

None.

**24/30 Closed session**

- a) Lidsing legal update – Details minuted separately.
- b) Personnel matters – Details minuted separately.

**24/31 Close of meeting**

Meeting closed at 8.24pm.

**24/32 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 7:00pm**

Signe .....

Date.....12/6/24.....