

BREDHURST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Bredhurst CE Primary School,
on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Nichola Carr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Malcolm Greer, Cllr David Hales, Cllr Derek Butler (MBC), Cllr Wendy Hinder (MBC), Bex Ratchford (Clerk)
Public: 11

1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council

Attendees were welcomed by Cllr Jones.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ferne and Pam Ormiston (Bredhurst WI).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2012

The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Annual Report of the Chair of the Parish Council

See attached. Cllr Jones was thanked for all her work on behalf of the council.

5. Reports from village groups

- a. Bredhurst Primary School – see attached.
- b. St Peters Church – see attached.
- c. Church Shop – see attached.
- d. Bredhurst Village Hall Committee – no report was available.
- e. Bredhurst Woodland Action Group – see attached.
- f. Bredhurst WI – see attached.
- g. Bredhurst Garden Club – see attached.

6. Reports from borough and county councillors (if present)

Cllr Butler gave thanks to all for helping to make his year as Mayor so enjoyable.

7. Contributions from residents

The parish council was thanked for maintaining the allotments.

8. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 6.41pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Bredhurst Parish Council – Chairman’s Annual Report – May 2017

Bredhurst Parish Council has dealt with a variety of issues over the past year including one-off projects, planning applications and ongoing routine maintenance work.

Our largest project was the re-surfacing of a footpath and two bridlepaths funded by KCC Public Rights of Way and BPC with contributions from BWAG and the British Horse Society. We were very pleased with the work and have received many compliments regarding the upgrading of these paths.

Thanks to Cllr Nichola Carr, we secured new waste bins from MBC throughout the village which now take both normal and dog waste. Nichola also continues to monitor our fire hydrants and organises regular ‘Tidy-Up’ days in the village. We participated in a national campaign, The Great British Spring Clean in March which was supported by 21 residents. This was a record turn-out which was much appreciated. Footpaths were cleared of vegetation and over 40 bags of litter were collected. Many thanks to Cllr Carr for organising the event and to all volunteers.

We are grateful to KCC Cllr Paul Carter who provided funding for the painting of the railings at the M2 Bridge, The Street. Other work is planned including the re-painting of the zig-zag lines outside Bredhurst School and the zebra crossing.

Thanks to Cllr Greer and a resident who supplied machinery to clear a culvert in The Street. More work is due to be carried out to the drains in the village but KCC have not yet supplied dates for this work. Cllr Greer has also cut back vegetation and sowed grass seed in Forge Lane to tidy the area up.

Verge maintenance continues to be an issue and we are working closely with KCC to ensure their contractors carry out work to a good standard. BPC continues with our hedge cutting and weed spraying programme.

Quotes have been submitted to our insurer regarding the damaged AONB Gateway sign in The Street. The driver of the car has admitted liability.

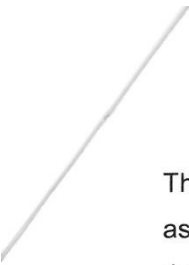
Crime remains relatively low in the village and we have a good level of support from our PCSO, Matt Adlington who has organised operations in Bredhurst Woods with the Rural Police Team in an attempt to deal with the illegal use of motor vehicles in the area.

In November, BPC attended a Licencing Hearing at MBC in respect of an application from the Village Hall Committee to allow alcohol to be served 7 days a week. The licence was granted but Bredhurst Parish Council are still of the opinion that this is not in the best interest of residents or children using the playing field. As recently as Sunday lunchtime, alcohol was being consumed in the toddlers' play area while children were in there playing. Both BPC and the licencing committee were assured by the Village Hall Committee that this would not happen and that alcohol/hall hirers will remain within the confines of the hall. BPC feels this will be impossible to enforce which the incident on Sunday proves.

Disappointingly, further to a meeting in November with the Land Agent for the Diocese of Rochester, our lease renewal for the playing field to the rear of the Village Hall has still not been resolved. He raised several legal issues at the meeting which have not been settled. BPC has spent in excess of £15,000 on the field over the last five years which includes repairs to the play equipment and maintenance of the field. If the legal issues cannot be resolved, BPC may have no option but to hand the field back to the Diocese.

Over the year, much time has been taken up with responding to planning issues and attendance at MBC planning committees. We attended the appeal for the planning application at Gibraltar Farm which we opposed. Unfortunately, the Inspector granted this application which will see 450 houses built on land adjacent to Elm Court and we fear this will increase the flow of traffic through our village.

BPC has recently launched a new website which is still undergoing amendments. This has been a very time consuming job for our clerk, Bex Ratchford, and we all appreciate the work that has been put into this. In addition to the Website, we also have over 400 people following our Facebook page, which is an increase of 100 from last year. This continues to be a favoured method of communication for many. We also operate the residents' email list and the clerk is always happy to add names to the list.



Throughout the last year, I have been very grateful for the strong support of Cllr Carr as Vice Chairman and to all the other Cllrs who work tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of Bredhurst. At times it can be a thankless task but we all continue as Cllrs because we take pride in our Village and want the best for residents.

We are fortunate to have six Cllrs in post with only one vacant position. Any residents who would like to find out more about the role or how to become involved should contact the Clerk.

I would also like to thank our clerk, Bex Ratchford. Bex has worked tremendously hard this year bringing all documents, processes and accounting procedures up to date and I appreciate all the hard work she has put in over the last year.

Finally, I would like to thank Borough Cllr Derek Butler for his continued support of BPC over the last year during a very busy time for him as Mayor of Maidstone. I would also like to personally congratulate Parish and Borough Cllr Malcolm Greer with his forthcoming term of office as Mayor and I wish him every success for the coming year.

Parish Council AGM 03.05.17

We have had a really successful year this year at Bredhurst. It has been my first full year in post and I have loved every minute of it. Our aims for this year have been to improve on our SATs results, improve communication with parents and work more closely alongside the local community including strengthening relationships with the church. We really would like to be a hub within the village and reach out to the local community.

We are very pleased to say we have the most children from the village that we have had for at least the last 5 years, we now have 26 children attending Bredhurst school who live in the village alone (this makes up over 1/5 of the school).

Our SATs results for 2016 were extremely pleasing, with Bredhurst being in the top 10% of all schools nationally. National average was 53% of children achieving the expected standard in maths, reading and writing. At Bredhurst we achieved 80%. We expect this years results to be at least in line with these.

We had a highly successful SIAMs inspection and retained our grading of 'outstanding', we are very proud of this achievement as the criteria for outstanding has changed and it is now a more challenging grading to achieve. Our website has been relaunched with a mobile app for parents, ensuring they are always fully informed of events within school. Please feel free to look at it and even subscribe to our newsletters! www.bredhurst.kent.sch.uk or you could even download our mobile app!

Since September we have invited the local community into school to join us for lunch, this has been highly successful, we feel like we have really reached out to many local residents and the feedback for this has been phenomenal. The residents have commented on the change to the school hall and the environment, which we have worked very hard on. They have also commented on the children's excellent manners and behaviour, as well as not having to cook and having a hot roast dinner provided! The children have also got much from this event – some of them have even told me it is their favourite thing within school!

We have improved the environment by cleaning and tidying up the hall and the outside space! The outside Reception area for our youngest children has now doubled in size, giving them much more space and more opportunities to learn.

We have continued to support a variety of charities, we raised staggering amount of in excess of £2,000 for the poppy appeal and £800 for the NSPCC. These are incredible amounts for such a small school.

Our next significant event is our school is the 150th May day event, we are expecting lots of visitors to the event and are hoping it will be highly successful and enjoyable for all.

Finally could we thank BWAG for the crosses which they made for us, our school can finally be seen as a church school from the outside as well as the inside!

DRAFT

St. Peter's Church, Bredhurst, Report to the Parish Council

The year started with representatives across the Parish meeting for a Vision Planning day led by the Archdeacon of Rochester. Various groups were set up to reflect the various aspects of our church life. Short, medium and long term goals were set and the process is ongoing.

The pattern of services are unchanged and well attended. A Worship Planning Group meets regularly to review our worship and we are in the process of updating our Orders of Service.

Notable services during the year have included The Battle of the Somme Vigil, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christmas Services, Mothering Sunday and Easter Services. Attendance and support has been strong and most encouraging.

A Healing and Wholeness Service is now held bi-monthly across the parish, and was initiated by a member of St. Peter's.

Throughout the year, there have been many infant baptisms. Preparation sessions help parents to reflect on their own faith journey and one father was confirmed in December. We currently have three adults preparing for baptism in May and one, possibly two, for confirmation in June.

Sadly, but to be expected, there have been a number of funerals in recent months, which have included four Bredhurst residents. Many of the bereaved are grateful for the support of The Rainham Bereavement Group, which is run by a member of St. Peter's. On a more joyful note, there are several weddings in the church diary.

I am encouraged by the number of children's groups, which meet regularly in the church throughout the year. These include Little Stars, Time for Tea, Explorers and Crew. Their special events have included Campfire, Carols and Christingle, new this Christmas, and an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

We share special links with our village school with three members of St. Peter's and our Team Rector being among the governing body. Children have participated in Baptism role play, and Experience Easter and Experience Christmas, which were led by a team from St. Peter's.

School services held in the church have included Harvest Festival, Blessing of the School Staff, and end of term services at Christmas and Easter. A Messy Church service was held in school in January. We hope to make a 'Back to School Sunday' with Blessing of all School Staff an annual event. Many enjoy the new community outreach lunches hosted by the children in school.

Various social events throughout the year have been well supported and have greatly assisted in raising funds, for example for: Friends of Kent Churches, the Bishop's Poverty and Hope Appeal and Christian Aid. The very successful Christmas Fair, held in the Village Hall, saw a record number of children visiting Father Christmas in church. Hot cross buns were also enjoyed in the Village Hall, following the service in church on Good Friday. A group of parishioners travelled to the Royal Albert Hall in September to take part in the "Big Sing" for the BBC's Songs of Praise and an outing to a London show is close to hand.

Members of the church have been involved in Parish wide services/events; Advent and Lent courses, Springs Dance Company's performance of Journey of The Magi, Gillingham Male Voice Choir, the Parish Nativity play, Men's Breakfasts, the Women's Quiet Day, Parish Strollers and major services, such as Ash Wednesday and Easter services to name but a few.

Training for those wishing to deepen their faith is available to all. One is soon to be licensed for ministry by the Bishop following a diocesan training programme. Sessions have also been held to equip members to read and lead intercessions in services and in the pastoral care of others.

The Team Rector and the Archdeacon of Rochester visited the churchyard in June to discuss enforcement of churchyard regulations, which has been received well by most but not by a few. The matter is on going and currently in the hands of the Chancellor in London.

St. Peter's are indebted to all those who help beautify and maintain the church, its fabrics and buildings and surrounding area. Of particular note are those in the Wednesday morning maintenance team who put in many hours of work in all weathers. An extension to the boiler house is currently under construction.

The Church shop, again manned by volunteers on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, continues to raise much needed funds for charity.

I am particularly keen extend already established links between church and school, and to forge links with other community organisations and businesses within the village. To host the BWAG Carol Concert is one such endeavour. The church is for the whole community, not just its members.

St Peter's is shortly to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Victorian refurbishment of the church at which the Bishop of Rochester will preside on 25 June 2017. Representatives from across the community have been invited to attend. Celebrations will also involve Clipping of the Church and School on Thursday 22 June 2017. We are delighted to receive a new brass baptism water jug to commemorate the 150th Anniversary, which has been generously donated anonymously.

Finally, I would like to say how much Robin and I have been encouraged by the welcome and support of the people of Bredhurst. Although I feel as though I have hit the ground running, it is a pleasure and a delight to be serving the people of God in the village of Bredhurst and in the wider Parish of South Gillingham. Thank you.

*Rev'd Pam Alexander
Team Vicar, Parish of South Gillingham
3 May 2017*

Bredhurst Church Charity Shop.
Report to the Parish Meeting. May 3rd 2017.

The Bredhurst Church Charity Shop has been raising money for the parish & local charities for over forty-seven years. Last year we reached the amazing figure of £100,000 distributed during those years.

Not bad for a small village enterprise!

As most of you will know, the shop is situated in a wooden store, to the right of the village hall, & is open on Wednesday & Saturdays from 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. We are grateful for donations of clothing & bric-a-brac & have an outlet for ^{the sale of} recyclable textiles.

In 2016, the shop raised £3825, half of which went to the Parish of South Gillingham & St Peter's Church, & half was distributed to charities. Each year we sponsor a nest box with the Hawk & Owl Trust, pay for the welfare & education of an Indian boy, & donate money to Bredhurst Village Hall. The remainder was sent to The British Thyroid Foundation, Hempstead Village Hall & to a charity supporting carers. During this year, our chosen charities are Bredhurst School, The Hedway Night Shelter, The Royal British Legion in addition to our usual donations.

Please may I encourage all of you to support this worthwhile venture.

Thank you.

Ann Keeble

BWAG REPORT - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 3rd May 2017

My report for the previous 12 months begins last May when the Chairman of BWAG and three others attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of the Chairman's British Empire Medal and BWAG being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The award was later presented to members of BWAG in July by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, the Viscount De L'Isle at a special celebration event at Green Court.

Also in July BWAG had a promotional stand at the Kent County Show which attracted new members and volunteers. Throughout the year we also attended an event at Bredhurst Cats Protection Centre and, for first time, had a stand at the Bredhurst Village Show in September. We were also invited to Christmas Fayres at All Saints, Hempstead and St Matthews, Wigmore.

We held various nature events during the year including Bat surveys, talks and, more recently, we are grateful to two BWAG Life Members for collecting bird, adder, dormouse and plant survey data.

The monthly BWAG Task Days, led for us by Kent Wildlife Trust, continue to grow in popularity and regularly attract about 25 volunteers. These are held on the 3rd Sunday in the month and there are tasks for all ages and abilities.

Social events include a choral afternoon at Green Court, the BWAG Christmas Carol Concert and the Bluebell Weekend. To date the Carol Concerts over the years have raised £13,500 and the Bluebell & Cream Tea event £7,000

The BWAG calendar continues to be popular and, along with card sales, raised £1,432 last year. In total, since December 2012, the calendar and card sales have raised over £8,000

BWAG now owns 9 plots totalling 11 acres with the last plot being generously donated free of charge.

BWAG now has around 400 members with a good increase in Life membership.

We received an income for the last financial year @ £10,196. This includes grants @ £1,200, Donations @£642, Membership £2,106, Events @ £3,415, Gift Aid £999, Sale of wood products @ £346, Calendars & Cards @ £1,432, Other Income £56.

Expenditure was £11,897 and included the purchase of tables, chairs, printing of leaflets, legal costs for the transfer of the plot and additional woodland security measures. We have a balance in our account of £19,128. Our accounts are independently audited by a qualified accountant and copies are available from our treasurer if required.

We have more events planned for the coming year and details of all BWAG activities will be discussed at our AGM which is to be held on Saturday at Arran Bank Farm at 3pm – you are all welcome to attend.

Jim Chalmers
Vice-Chairman, Bredhurst Woodland Action Group

ANNUAL REPORT OF BREDHURST WI FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017

The past year has been a good one for Bredhurst WI with plenty of activities for members to enjoy. The speakers have been varied, including The Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance, 3 Quaker Families-Cadbury, Fry & Rowntree, Military Medals, Age UK, The Royal Voluntary Service & Silverline, ACWW, History of Pearls & Pearl Jewellery, 19th Century Workboxes and their Contents, The River Thames- London's Liquid History, Making Your Own Aromatherapy Products, & A Taste of Medieval Cookery.

Members have been able to attend courses and events held by Federation in Needle Felting, Women in Science, A Taste of South America, Art & Craft Annual Days, Watercolour Painting, Murder Mystery Evening & The Home Economics Annual Days & Winter Days. A number attended the Annual Meeting at Tunbridge Wells.

Organised by our own Institute, 2 popular coffee mornings and a strawberry tea. We have been on a number of theatre trips including Save the Last Dance for Me, Dreamboats & Petticoats, and Sweet Charity. The last event of this year was a trip to the Parsonage Oast Garden at Yalding including a cream tea. Our own Annual Day held in August was another huge success.

We are very proud to be able to report that 48 Twiddle Muffs, made by our members, have now been donated to the Alzheimer Society for the use of Dementia patients and this was reported in West Kent News. This work is still continuing.

Finally I will stress again how lucky we are to have such a hard working President and I am sure you will want to join with me in thanking Wendy for all that she does. On a personal note following the major accident that I had on the day of last year's Annual Meeting I must thank all those who stood in for me whilst I was unable to attend and in particular I must thank Wendy for her support and understanding at what was a difficult time for me. I am sure that we will look forward to another varied and enjoyable Year.

Pam Ormiston, Secretary, 10th May 2017.



Bredhurst Garden Club

Report to Parish Council AGM 3 May 2017

The Garden Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and has an average attendance of between 30 and 40 members. Sadly, numbers have steadily declined in the last 5 years as very few younger members are joining.

The programme offers a wide range of interesting topics although not always related to gardening. In the past year we have had particularly varied talks, often illustrated, on Nuts, In the Footsteps of Paddington Bear, Bumbles and Wasps, Working in Monet's Garden, Ponds and Water Gardens, Rhododendrons and Seashores, Container Gardening with Vegetables, Herbs and a photographic talk entitled Every Picture Tells a Story plus a presentation from Demelza House.

Members participate in four competitions throughout the year culminating in the Bredhurst Art, Craft and Produce Show, in which members can compete for Vegetable, Fruit, Flower and Flower Arranging trophies, in addition to Best Competitor in the Show.

There were two social events, Christmas Supper and a Summer Supper. Both have worked well using a 'Bring and Share' style. We have our own brand of entertainment ranging from Build a Snowman, Winter Olympics, Quizzes, the Salvation Army and our own St Peter's Church Choir.

The club is keen to recruit new members and guests are welcome to come to any meeting. For the remainder of 2017 there are presentations entitled 'An Illustrated Walk Around the Saxon Shoreway, The Madness of Gardeners, Two Rocks and a Hole in the Ground – Chalk, Flint and Chislehurst Caves, Allotment Growing Pains, A Year in a Cobham Garden and last but by no mean least a talk about our very own St. Peter's Church Shop.

I would like to thank all those who contribute to the success of the Club and the Village Show and look forward to another fruitful year.

Lesley Wainwright
Treasurer

3 May 2017