

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Blacksmith's Barn

Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 6.30pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Chantelle Goodwin-Sword, Cllr Steve Bowring, Cllr Claire Sharp, Borough Cllrs Anne Brindle and Bob Hinder.
Steve Hill – Clerk & RFO.
Public: 2.

The Chairman welcomed PCSO's Caroline Honeysett and Neil Denney.

628. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Nichola Carr and Dan Fifield – Apologies accepted.

629. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

630. Minutes of 1st June 2022 Parish Council Meeting

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

631. Police Briefing

No crimes were reported in Bredhurst during the preceding month. PCSO Caroline Honeysett introduced herself and explained that Kent Police will be reducing the number of PCSOs soon due to financial cutbacks. She remains in post for now and covers Bredhurst and three other wards. Caroline provided details of a new speed check initiative with the cost of this service being paid for by Parish Councils.

AP1: Clerk to investigate availability and costs.

632. Matters Arising (for information only)

Action Points from 01-06-22

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 29-06-22
AP1	Clerk to contact suppliers for updated quote (Wetpour).	Clerk	633a
AP2	Cllr Jones to send follow up emails (Savills invoices).	Cllr Jones	633b
AP3	Clerk to obtain revised quote (Barn loft boarding).	Clerk	Complete
AP4	Cllr Jones to arrange adverts (Barn publicity).	Cllr Jones	634b
AP5	Clerk to circulate advert (Barn cleaning company).	Clerk	Complete
AP6	Clerk to chase Greene King.	Clerk	635
AP7	Cllr Fifield to check condition of whole area.	Cllr Fifield	Completed
AP8	Cllr Jones to obtain quote from BPC's grass cutting company.	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP9	Clerk to contact Village Hall Manager.	Clerk	Complete
AP10	Clerk to submit audit information to PKF Littlejohn.	Clerk	Complete

633. Community Playing Field

a. In addition to 6 wetpour quotes recently received, more details were provided to Cllrs regarding the two lowest quotes. Cllrs unanimously **agreed** to use the cheaper of the two companies @ £4,305 + VAT which provides a slightly larger area of wetpour to the climbing frame and junior swing areas, plus two new swing seats. The CIL budget will be used to cover the cost of this work.

AP2: Clerk to notify companies of BPC's decision.

- b. Cllr Jones has spoken with Savills and it was agreed that BPC will pay the current invoice (July to Sept) @ £112.50. Cllr Jones asked for a reduction of arrears as they are historic dating back to 2017 and caused by a change of software at Savills. BPC await a response from Savills.
AP3: Cllr Jones to follow up with Savills.

634. Blacksmiths Barn

- a. Cllrs received four quotes providing approximately 16m² and 6m² area of loft boarding, Cllrs unanimously **agreed** that the smaller area would be sufficient and to use the contractor using traditional boarding @ £630 inc.
AP4: Clerk to notify companies of BPC's decision.
- b. The recent Barn promotional activity on Facebook has generated 3, possibly 4 new bookings. It was **agreed** to advertise regularly on Facebook, the BPC website and issue fliers to local businesses. Barn hirers may also advertise on the Parish noticeboard.
AP5: Cllr Jones to advertise regularly on Facebook, the BPC website and distribute fliers to local businesses.
- c. BPC received quotes from three cleaning companies. Cllrs unanimously **agreed** to use the Bredhurst based company.
AP6: Clerk to notify companies of BPC's decision.
- d. A recent regular Barn booking was cancelled due to the garden not being secure for children. Cllrs **agreed** to obtain quotes for additional measures to make the garden more secure.
AP7: Cllr Jones to obtain quotes.
- e. Cllrs **agreed** to change the Barn hire payment process to a 50% non-refundable fee at time of booking.
AP8: Cllr Jones to update Conditions of Hire.
AP9: Clerk to implement new payment process.
- f. Cllrs **agreed** to purchase two heavy door stops to secure the French doors in the open position.
AP10: Cllr Jones to purchase.
- g. Cllrs **agreed** to purchase a noticeboard for inside the Barn.
AP11: Clerk to purchase.

635. Village Maintenance

The Clerk has forwarded a quote for all damaged brickwork and grass outside The Bell with photos to the insurers. We await their reply.

AP12: Clerk to chase insurers for a quick resolution.

636. Defibrillator Signs

The Village Hall Manager has confirmed that the defibrillator is in working condition, it is regularly checked, and he is the responsible AED person. BPC to add defibrillator signs to the Parish noticeboards and The Barn noticeboard once purchased.

637. Social Media

- a. BPC were wrongly accused of arranging a firework display on the evening of the 17th of June as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebration which resulted in the death of cattle and an estimated loss to the farmer approx. £25k. BPC clarified the Parish Council was not involved with the event and sent condolences to the farmer.
- b. BPC were criticised for not intervening when bins were not collected in Forge Lane due to road works. Anything to do with bin collection is not BPCs responsibility and residents were advised to report the matter direct to MBC.

638. Planning

BPC held a Lidsing public meeting in the Barn on 6th June which was very poorly attended. Currently, about 24% of Bredhurst residents have donated and we are grateful to those who have, with some making very sizable donations. Bredhurst Parish Council are extremely grateful to residents in

Hempstead, Wigmore, Rainham, Lordswood, Walderslade, Boxley and further afield for their strong support and donations, without which, BPC would not be able to proceed.

Funds have been raised through various means including a Bredhurst resident offering gel nails / varnish with all proceeds (currently £130) being donated. Hempstead residents organised a Garden Safari donating £155, and a coffee morning at The Barn raised £751. Many other events have been held and we thank everyone for their tremendous support. In addition, Hempstead residents have organised an event to be held at Bredhurst Village Hall on 22nd July. We thank the hall committee for waiving all hire charges. Details of the event will be announced soon.

Recently the campaign featured in Kent Online and was front page in Action Forum. Together with money coming in from fundraisers, the recent publicity has generated a huge surge in cash and cheque donations. As of 29th June, funds currently stand at £21,639 Gofundme, £8,266 cash and cheques totalling £29,905. Together with a provisional sum of up to £8,000 if needed from Bredhurst Parish Council, this gives a current total balance of £37,905. To cover any unforeseen expenditure, BPC is still encouraging donations as expenditure could rise depending on the volume of additional evidence put forward by MBC and the promoter of Lidsing over the coming weeks. Numerous documents were published by MBC on their website on 28th June in response to the Inspector's initial letter.

The large sum raised to date allows BPC to consider employing a full legal team consisting of a barrister and specialist consultancy companies. Cllrs considered this during a Closed Session at the end of the meeting.

Cllr Jones and Sue Harwood (ALGD) are due to meet with Save Our Heath Lands (SOHL) on 30th June.

639. Finance

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

Account	Balance as of 28/06/22
Unity Trust Account	£78,669.34


b. The following payments made out of and at this meeting were **agreed**. Payments to be made by BACS unless specified otherwise.

Payments made out of meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
DD	Bytes Software Services Ltd – June 2022	8.77	1.75	10.52	SB & CGS
DD	Onecom – June 2022	29.46	5.89	35.35	SB & CGS
34	Ecotricity – June 2022	76.71	3.84	80.55	SB & CGS

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
35	Clerk – Ryman Xerox Colotech+	43.27	8.66	51.93	SB & CGS
36	Cllr Jones – A4 Canon RED LBL	10.99		10.99	SB & CGS
37	AD Property Maintenance – Kitchen Cupboard	500.00		500.00	SB & CGS
38	KCC Audit Invoice 2021-22	335.00	67.00	402.00	SB & CGS
39	Master Alarm – Move PIR in Kitchen	45.00	9.00	54.00	SB & CGS
40	Savills - Community Field Rental Q2 22-23 741768	112.50		112.50	SB & CGS
41	Consultants 25199 - Lidsing (Bespoke) 	2500.00	500.00	3000.00	SB & CGS
42	Mike Sealey – Barn Grass Cutting - June	30.00		30.00	SB & CGS
43	Rachel Ford - Gardening 7 hrs - June	175.00		175.00	SB & CGS

* VAT to be reclaimed

Cllrs Bowring and Goodwin-Sword **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

- c. Following the BPC meeting on 1st June an incorrect payment was made. It was immediately rectified.
- d. Cllrs **agreed** to use KCC for the 2022-23 internal audit. Their fee has increased to £351 + VAT per day.
AP13: Clerk to notify KCC.

640. Office Equipment

Cllrs **agreed** to replace the old BPC printer with a WorkForcePro 4820DWF printer @ £103.25 + VAT.

AP14: Clerk to purchase printer and responsibly dispose of the old printer.

641. Reports from Parish Councillors

None received.

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

None received.

643. Correspondence

Letter from Boxley Parish Council – discussed during the closed session.

644. Closed Session

- a. In accordance with Meeting Notes previously circulated to Cllrs, it was agreed to employ the services of a barrister from Landmark Chambers and all the specialist consultancy companies he has recommended.

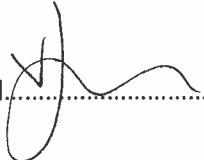
AP15: Clerk to instruct barrister and consultancy companies.

- b. Cllrs discussed Boxley Parish Council's conditional offer of a donation. Their letter has been referred to our barrister to consider their conditions and we await his response.

645. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

646. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 6.30pm

Signed.....


Date..... 31/8/22