

BREDHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Blacksmiths Barn
Wednesday 14th August 2024 at 7.00pm



Present: Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair), Cllr Greg Davis (Vice Chair), Cllr Sue Harwood, Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Claire Sharp and Cllr Dan Fifield.
 Melanie Fooks – Clerk & RFO
 Public – 2

The Chair welcomed the members of the public and the new Clerk, Melanie Fooks, to the meeting. The Chair also thanked Steve Hill for his hard work during the last few months as the Parish Council’s Locum Clerk.

67/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies accepted from Cllr Lee Gooda and PC Ben Cox.

68/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

69/24 Motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for all items in the Closed Session.

Motion **agreed** by all Cllrs. Proposed Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Collins.

70/24 Minutes of the 16th July 2024 Parish Council Meeting and the Personnel Committee

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

71/24 Matters Arising (for information only)

Action Points from 16-07-24

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item on 14/08/24
AP1	Liaise with MBC re dog fouling	Cllr Jones	Completed
AP2	Obtain notice board quotes	Cllrs Jones & Fifield	75
AP3	Obtain quotes and initiate insurance claim	Cllr Jones	75
AP4	Hazlitt Theatre - organise lunches	Cllr Jones	76
AP5	Inform KCC re contract for 2024/25 internal audit	Cllr Jones	Completed

Public Open Session

As the members of public had attended to address Councillors on their planning application it was **agreed** that **item 76b/24 24/502769/FULL** - Land North East Of Redwood Glade Bredhurst was taken at this point in the meeting.

72/24 Police

a. Cllrs **received** the following crime report:

Boxley

Between 18:00 on Monday 29th July and 07:15 on Tuesday 30th July, Lidsing Road.

A window of a residential property was smashed.

Crime Report No. 46/128083/24 - Posted 02/08/2024.

Bredhurst

Between 21:21 on Monday 15th July and 05:40 on Tuesday 16th July, Blind Lane.

A black Jaguar F-pace was stolen from the road, registration RK21***.

Crime Report No. 46/118218/24 - Posted 19/07/2024.

- b. Cllr Jones confirmed that registrations of speeding vehicles have been given to the police and has requested that speed traps are conducted in the near future. PC Ben Cox is now covering Bredhurst and will try and attend council meetings when on duty.

73/24 Community Playing Field

- a. Dog Fouling. Cllr Jones explained that although posters have been put up around the village, some people are still not picking up their dog's mess, particularly in the Community Playing Field. MBC have been approached to install CCTV at various locations in the village.

- b. Grass Cutting Contract. Cllr Jones explained that now the Clerk is in post a meeting will be arranged to discuss the frequency of grass cutting.

AP1: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Landscape Services.

- c. Information Board – Quotation for replacing the posts. Proposed by Cllr Sharp, seconded by Cllr Davis, all Cllrs **agreed** to replace the damaged posts at a cost of £141.00 for new posts and materials.

AP2: Clerk to arrange for Lucanus to carry out the work.

74/24 Blacksmiths Barn

- a. Hire Request. Cllrs considered the hire request from a resident to hire the Barn next year for their wedding reception. All Cllrs **agreed** a cost of £200.00 for the hire with a refundable deposit of £100.00. Proposed by Cllr Sharp seconded by Cllr Davis. Cllrs requested that the hirer is reminded that no amplified music is allowed at the Barn.

AP3: Clerk to confirm with hirer and notify affected regular hirer.

- b. CCTV. The contractors for Barn's alarm system have confirmed that they cannot support the current system and have agreed to provide a quote for replacing it.

AP4: Clerk to arrange with Wizard a date to visit the barn.

- c. Electricity. The Clerk submitted a meter reading to Ecotricity as a result the Barn is now in credit by £195.02. Monthly readings will be submitted in future.

- d. Hive Heating. Cllr Jones requested for the Clerk to download the Hive app so that the heating can be controlled remotely and set prior to hirers using the barn.

AP5: Clerk to contact Hive for instruction to download the app.

- d. Barn Maintenance. Cllr Jones explained that there was a fundraising event at the barn on Sunday 18th August in aid of ALGD and asked if anyone was available to jetwash the patio. The Clerk offered to do this.

75/24 Village Maintenance

- a. Notice Board quotes. BPC received a grant for a new notice board in the last financial year. Cllrs agreed that an Oak notice board was more appropriate to the area. One quote has been obtained but more are required for consideration at the September meeting.

AP6: The Clerk and Cllr Fifield to obtain quotes.

- b. Allotment fencing update – The Council's Insurers Zurich have settled a claim for a section of the fence which was damaged by a car being driven into it for the sum of £940.00. After Cllr Jones persistence, SGN has now, in principle, agreed to settle a claim for the sum of £912.00, for another section of the fence that was damaged whilst works were being carried out by the company near the allotments. One quote has been received for a replacement of the whole fence and further quotes are required for consideration at September's meeting.

AP7: Cllr Jones to obtain further quotes.

76/24 Hazlitt Touring Theatre

The Hazlitt Touring Company will perform The Three Musketeers on Sunday 25th August, 12 noon at the Barn. Ticket sales will go direct to the Hazlitt Theatre. Tickets £5pp or £15 for a family of four. BPC to offer Ploughman's lunch at £7.50pp/free to children under 16. Funds raised to BPC/ALGD. Ticket sales to date totalled sixteen. Further advertising of the event will be required.

AP8: Cllrs Jones and Sharp to organise.

77/24 Planning

- a. Lidsing Update. Cllr Jones gave an update on Bredhurst Parish Council's continuing legal challenge. She confirmed that a date has been set for 17th September to attend the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, London for 1.5-hour hearing to argue the case for a Judicial Review. Cllr Jones and Cllr Davis will attend.

Cllrs wished to thank Wigmore resident, Penny Barnard, who organised a cake sale and raised £170.00 towards the Against Lidsing fighting fund. Two more fund raising events are planned for 18th and 25th August.

5000 ALGD leaflets will shortly be distributed via The Net magazine across neighbouring areas. Thanks to Daren Halfpenny of DHDA for designing the leaflets free of charge.

- b. **24/503010/SUB** – 3 Blind Lane Bredhurst
Submission of details pursuant to Condition 2- Materials 3 - Electric vehicle charging point 10 - Hard and soft landscape 11 - Tree protection - 14 - Slab level units and 15 - Surface water drainage of 20/504153/FULL. **For information only.**

24/502769/FULL - Land North East of Redwood Glade Bredhurst

Erection of a self-build 4-bedroom dwelling with an associated garage, parking, and landscaping.

Cllrs wished to see this application approved and requested that if the Planning Officer is minded to refuse, this application is reported to the Planning Committee.

AP9: Clerk to submit response to MBC.

APP/U2235/W/24/3344940 Planning Appeal **23/505640/FULL** - Woodfield, White Hill Road

Conversion of existing former stable building to a holiday-let, with associated external alterations, biodiversity enhancements and parking provision. **No further comments.**

- c. **Medway Council's Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation**

Cllr Jones gave a brief outline of the areas being considered as the preferred option for this part of the plan. It was agreed that the Parish Council is not in support of this option, and it was agreed that a response is drafted and circulated to cllrs for approval. Cllr Jones also requested that residents are notified that Medway Council will have a display at Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre on Thursday 29th August between 11am – 2pm and are encouraged to make their own responses to Medway Council.

AP10: Clerk and Cllr Jones to draft response. Clerk to notify residents.

Adjournment for a Short Public Open Session

78/24 Finance

- a. The financial statement and bank reconciliation for P/E 31st July 2024 were **agreed** by all Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

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

Payments made out of meeting.

Ref:	Details	Amount £	VAT* £	Total £	Auth
55	Bytes - July Inv. 1320816	9.64	1.93	11.57	SH/CS
56	OneCom – Inv. 7271910	36.36	7.27	43.63	SH/CS
57	Cathy Martin – Returned Barn Deposit	100.00	-	100.00	SH/CS
58	Beth Gillespie – Returned Barn Deposit	100.00	-	100.00	SH/CS
59	Locum Clerk Final Salary	-	-	-	SH/CS
60	Locum Clerk Office Rental	-	-	-	SH/CS

* VAT to be reclaimed.

Payments for authorising at meeting

Ref	Details	Amount £	VAT* £	Total £	Auth
61	Rachel Ford – Gardening (10 hours) July	275.00	-	275.00	SH/CS
62	The Net Magazine – Distribution 5000 ALGD Leaflets	250.00	50.00	300.00	SH/CS
63	Every Little Nook – Invoice 0062 - July	84.50	-	84.50	SH/CS
64	Safeplay Playground Services Inv. 27378	55.00	11.00	66.00	SH/CS
65	Mike Searley – Grass Cutting - July	50.00	-	50.00	SH/CS
66	Vanessa Jones – Dobbies Compost	26.67	5.33	32.00	SH/CS
67	DHDA - ALGD Leaflets 5000	82.00	-	82.00	SH/CS
68	SLCC Membership – Clerk	195.00	-	195.00	SH/CS
69	Bytes – August Inv. 1338479	9.64	1.93	11.57	SH/CS

* VAT to be reclaimed

79/24 Highways Improvement Plan

- a. The decision made out of meeting to include the extension of double yellow lines on Fir Tree Grove at the junction with Hurstwood Road into the HIP was **ratified**.
- b. Cllr Jones and the Clerk met with Greg McNicholl and Emma Richardson from KCC Highways who agreed that the speed limit in Hurstwood Road would be changed to 20mph so that it is in line with the rest of the village, additional signage will be installed to reflect this. Cllrs Jones requested that the speed limit in Kemsley Street is also reduced to 20mph. This and the double yellow lines in Fir Tree Grove at the junction with Hurstwood Road are being considered by KCC. The Clerk to contact the Head of Bredhurst Primary School to check if the agreement with The Bell for parents to park in their car park is still in place and, if so, to reinforce this to parents.
AP11: Clerk to contact the school.

80/24 Reports from Parish, Borough, and County Councillors (if present)

None.

81/24 Correspondence

Cllrs received the following correspondence:

- KALC Standards Conference 10th October.
- KALC Newsletter – August.
- Mayors Garden Party 24th September 2024.

- Southern Water – ‘We’re Fighting Fatbergs’ - sent to residents.
- KCC Trading Standards - sent to residents.
- Neighbourhood Alert – ‘Over Sharing’ - sent to residents.
- KALC Training
- KALC Maidstone Meeting 29th July 2024 – Draft Minutes.
- A resident’s concerns about speeding through the village. This was dealt with under item 72/24.

82/24 Closed Session

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

83/24 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.30pm with no further business to discuss.

84/24 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 11th September 7.00pm

Signed  Date 11/9/24