

**Draft Minutes for
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2005 in Bridge Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Lewis, Beinder, Corfield, Dobson, Edmonds, Esdale, Hill and Gulvin.

- 125 . Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Beesty
- 126.** The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2005 were amended, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
- 127. Update of Disclosure of Interests**
Councillors submitted updated Disclosure of Interest forms.
- 128. Disposal of Business from the last Meeting**
- a. Notice Board Bridge Down – Cllr Esdale reported that Serco had approved the site for the new notice board and that it would be erected during the following week. Keys will be held by Cllr Beesty and the parish clerk.
 - b. Bus shelter – Cllr Esdale reported that the new glass had been cut and the panes would be replaced before the next council meeting.
 - c. Entry for the ARK ‘Kent Village of the Year Competition’ – Cllr Edmonds reported that Bridge had been entered in four of the six categories i.e. Young People, Old People, Businesses and IT.
 - d. Phone line for the parish clerk- Cllr Esdale informed the Council that this had not yet been installed in the new parish clerk’s office but he would contact BT to arrange for this to be done and to request that the old number for the parish clerk’s office be retained.
 - e. Graffiti – Nothing further had been heard from the police on this matter.
 - f. Car Parking Western Avenue – There was nothing further to report on this.
- 129. Reports from Representatives to outside bodies**
EK Public Rights of Way Parish Liaison Meeting – Cllr Edmonds gave a report on this meeting. Tools, expertise and some limited funding is available from KCC to improve rights of way but councils would need to provide volunteers or possibly employ contractors to carry out work. It was agreed that an estimate for making the surfaces of the bridges in the water meadow safer would be sought by Cllr Esdale.
- 130. Matters for Discussion and Action**
- a. **Highways** – The Highways Department had provided speed data for Bridge Hill but this did not differentiate between the speeds of vehicles entering and leaving the village. The clerk was asked to write to Ruth Goudie of Kent Highways to request this additional data for discussion at the next meeting.
 - b. **The Clerk’s Contract of Employment** – A draft contract of employment had been circulated to Councillors by Cllr Lewis and this was approved.

- c. Refuse Collection** – The Parish Council had been asked to discuss this matter following expressions of concern at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was noted that the Parish Council had written to CCC in April 2004 expressing misgivings over the proposed reduction in rubbish collection. It was therefore agreed to wait until the new system was in operation in the village to assess any possible impact and then decide whether further representations were required.
- d. Bench outside Bridgeway Stores** – The cost of the bench was approved and the clerk was instructed to place the order. The clerk was also asked to write to Mr Dhaliwal to thank him for agreeing to the bench being placed outside the stores.
- e. Request from the school to use the Recreation Ground as a car park for the school fete on 18th June.** This was agreed with the customary proviso regarding damage to the ground in the event of wet weather.
- f. British Legion 60 year celebration of VE day in the Village Hall-** Cllr Lewis had received a breakdown of the proposed costs from the local British Legion and a request to the Council for a contribution from parish funds in the event of a poor local response to the celebration party. This was agreed.
- g. Recreation Ground : Action on Reports-** Cllr Esdale expressed concern that reports on the condition of the recreation ground and the safety of its equipment were made but there seemed to be no mechanism for ensuring that further action was taken.
Litter picker – The Council agreed that Cllr Esdale should buy two litter pickers for use on the recreation ground. It was also agreed that the existing contract with Serco for rubbish collection on the recreation ground should be scrutinised at the next Council meeting to ascertain precisely what work they are contracted to do.
Cllr Gulvin reported that the contractor had not cut the football pitch the previous week. The clerk was instructed to find out the reason for this and also to enquire what it would cost to have the edges of the recreation ground strimmed regularly.
It was reported that rental payments for the use of the ground during 2004 was still outstanding from the Exiles and the Junior Football Club. Cllr Gulvin advised that the Council would receive a cheque from the Exiles for last year's rental soon and a further payment for the current year within the next two months.
It was confirmed that the tennis and cricket clubs had been billed this month and that the football clubs would be billed in September. The rates for use of the ground would be reviewed in October.
- h. Renewal of Parish Council Insurance** – The clerk reported that there would be a rebate of £154 on the current insurance premium because responsibility for street lighting had passed to the CCC. Cllr Hill agreed to seek alternative quotations for insurance cover for the coming year for discussion at the next meeting.
- i. Library times** – It was agreed to publicise the times of the visits of the mobile library van in the next village newsletter and that Cllr Corfield would also include them on the village website.

- j. **Fish and Chip van-** Although the Council regard this as a welcome amenity, because it is a commercial enterprise, it was considered inappropriate to advertise it in the village newsletter or on the website.
131. **Correspondence** -Noted. Cllr Lewis asked that in future items of correspondence not previously circulated should be laid out for councillors to see at the start of Council meetings.
132. Letter of authority to transfer funds of £1,000 between the two bank accounts held by Bridge Parish Council - Noted
133. Receipt of £10 from BVST – Noted.
134. Authorisation of the following items for payment (2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel Seath	£108.08	March salary 15 hrs@ £7.205
Carol Baker	£369.08	Salary March
John Hill	£22.92	Expenses Annual Parish Meeting
JK Property Services	£505.25	Notice Board
SLCC	£93.00	Annual membership 2005
EDF Energy	£11.31	Maintenance –balance to finalise account
Carol Baker	£41.03	Petty cash Jan to March 05
BT	£11.16	Final telephone bill for account

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 12th May 2005 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9. 45 pm.