

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th April 2006 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Bennett, Edmonds, Esdale and Lewis

136. **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Councillors Corfield and Gulvin
137. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest.
138. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 2006 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
139. **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground**
Cllr Beesty passed the Recreation Ground folder to Cllr Lewis.
Cllr Beinder will put together a proposal for making the Recreation Ground into an environmentally sensitive area to present to the June Parish Council meeting. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
Cllr Lewis reported that concrete blocks were being placed at the base of one of the trees on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that councillors would remove these and dispose of them at the Council Recycling Depot. **Action; Councillors**
Cllr Hill agreed to contact Mr Mortley to ask when the repaired benches will be installed. **Action; Cllr Hill**
- b. **Flood Map** –Deferred to next meeting. **Action – Cllr Gulvin**
- c. **Information Board** – Information is still being gathered. Deferred to later meeting. **Action; Cllr Hill**
- d. **Low cost housing** – It was agreed to contact other local parishes to ascertain what had been their experiences in setting up affordable housing schemes. Cllr Edmonds would contact a former councillor from Bokesbourne and the Clerk would find out the names of the Parish Clerks in Littlebourne and Adisham. It was agreed that the criteria for the allocation of housing would be discussed at the June Parish Council meeting. **Action; Cllr Edmonds, Clerk**
- e. **Water meadow bridges** – Cllr Hill thanked Cllrs Gulvin, Beesty and Esdale who helped Cllr Hill to lay netting over the water meadow bridges. A letter of thanks had also been received from Mrs Ann Shirley who made the original request.
It was pointed out that the bridge over the Nailbourne ford in Mill Lane is the responsibility of Kent Highways. They had been contacted in February to report the slippery surface. No remedial action had yet been taken but the council thanked Mrs Bryce for bringing the matter to its attention.
- f. **Annual Parish Meeting** – As Ms Chinnadurai was not now able to address the meeting, it was hoped to get a representative of Southern Water to speak. If this were not possible, the meeting would go ahead this year without an outside speaker. Cllrs Hill & Esdale would be responsible for buying refreshments and drinks. The Clerk would draw up an agenda and print copies of the 2005 minutes. **Action; Cllrs Esdale & Hill, Clerk**
- g. **A2 slip road balustrade** – Inter Route had reported that, as the replacement balustrade was a new specification, they must obtain permission from the Highways Dept for each component part. This was still awaited but it was expected that the work would be carried out in June at the latest.
140. **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**
Cllr Gulvin submitted a written report on the BVST meeting of 28th February 2006
City Cllr John Anderson reported on recent City Council business
141. **Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**
- High Beeches, Patribourne Rd, Bridge
Remove small conifer growing very close to rear of property – No objection
- 9 Union Rd, Bridge
Fell dead poplar – No objection

Red Lion Public house, 74 High St, Bridge
Fell 2 apple trees in pub garden – No objection

As it is likely that these trees are to be felled in order to increase the capacity of the car park, it was agreed that Punch Taverns should be contacted to confirm the previous agreement that the pub car park could be used for the parish during the day.

Action; Clerk

142 Matters for Discussion and Action

a. Willow tree on recreation ground; It was agreed that action would be taken to try to preserve this tree for as long as possible as it was used by village children as a climbing tree. It was agreed that permission would be sought to remove dead branches in the hope of conserving it. **Action; Cllr Lewis, Clerk**

b. Youth Shelter; Cllr Beesty had researched the possibility of setting up a youth shelter. The Council felt that this would be a good thing for the village. It was agreed that the community policeman and community support officer would be contacted for their views and to identify a suitable site. Amanda Sparkes would also be asked if other local parishes had successfully introduced youth shelters. It was envisaged that a small working party would be set up to take the plan forward. **Action Cllr Beesty, Clerk**

c. Bridge Parish Plan- Action Plan; The Parish Council reviewed the items of the Action Plan which related to the council's responsibilities. While most of the proposals were already in hand or had been completed, it was agreed that action would be taken on the following;

i) Bus services - A representative of Stage Coach Bus Company would be asked to attend a parish council meeting to discuss fare increases and timetabling issues.

Action; Clerk

ii) Speed indicator – Bridge Hill – Highways Dept would be asked for an early decision on the siting of a speed indicator for Bridge Hill. **Action Cllr Esdale**

iii) Cycle Route to Canterbury – Canterbury City Council would be asked to discuss the provision of a safe cycle route from Bridge to Canterbury. **Action; Clerk**

iv) Welcome Pack for New Residents – A welcome pack consisting of Bridge Village Plan, a list of village organisations, details of refuse collections and information about the village web site would be compiled and given to new residents to the village. Cllr Esdale agreed to compile a sample pack. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

d Draft Statement of Community Involvement – Cllr Esdale pointed out that the draft statement proposes that pre –application discussions on major proposals likely to cause controversy should no longer be notified to parish councils or to the press. It was agreed that this would be an undesirable development, which would reduce rather than extend community involvement. It was agreed that Cllr Esdale would respond to the draft on behalf of the parish council. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

e. Vandalism at re-cycling point – Following persistent incidents of vandalism at the re-cycling point, it was agreed that Cllr Hill would contact the charities which had collection bins at the point and ask whether they would be willing to contribute to the cost of setting up a cctv camera to monitor the area. **Action; Cllr Hill**

f. 30 years of the by pass celebrations – The Parish Council had been asked by the Bridge Festival Committee to take over the organisation of the celebrations marking 30 years of the by-pass. In view of the short notice, it was agreed that the parish council would mount an exhibition of photographs during the weekend of the village fete 17th / 18th. June. Maurice Rarity would be asked to help with the selection of suitable material. **Action; Cllr Hill, Clerk**

g. Bridge in Bloom – There was some discussion as to whether the 'Bridge in Bloom' competition should go ahead in view of the water shortage. It was agreed that the competition would take place as usual but with extra points awarded for planting and displays that encouraged water conservation.

Action; Cllrs Edmonds & Bennett

h. Equestrian Elite sign – Several complaints had been received from parishioners that the village hall clock was no longer visible from the bus stop because of the erection of a new shop sign at Equestrian Elite. It was reported that the Planning Dept had refused the original application for an illuminated sign, which the parish council planning committee had supported. It was pointed out that there were several illuminated signs in the High St. It was therefore agreed that the parish council would apply for planning permission for an illuminated shop sign, which would be switched on during hours of business, on behalf of Equestrian Elite. Should this application be granted, the owners of the shop would then replace the sign at a level that would not block sight of the village clock. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

i. Insurance Policy renewal – It was agreed to renew the parish insurance with Allianz Cornhill **Action- Clerk**

j. Clerks' Information Day – It was agreed that the Clerk should attend a KAPC Information Day on Tuesday 16th May 2006. **Action; Clerk**

143. Correspondence - Noted

144. Letter of authorisation to transfer £1,000 between the two bank accounts held by Bridge Parish Council was agreed. **Action; Clerk**

145. The following receipt was noted;
VAT repayment 1/10/05 to 4/1/06 - £959.32

146. The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
SLCC	£84.00	Annual membership April 06 / April 07
British Telecommunications plc	£62.72	Telephone Account 9/12/05 –7/3/06 £53.38 + £9.34 vat
Christobel N Seath	£385.31	Clerk's salary and office expenses – March 2006.
Christobel Seath	£43.72	Petty cash
KAPC	£58.75	Clerk's Information Day 16 th May (£50 + £8.75 vat)

147. Any other business

Patixbourne Rd light - It was reported there had been no response to the parish council's request for an additional light.

Patixbourne Rd footpath – There had been no reply to the parish council's complaint that the footpath needed repairs.

Kerbs in Western Ave. – Cllr Lewis as County Lengthsman representative had reported the worn condition of kerbs in Western Ave but had had no response.

Chairman - Cllr Hill would be standing down as Chairman of the Parish Council next month at the end of his year of office. He thanked fellow councillors and the clerk for their work and support during the year. He was also thanked by the council for his able leadership over the past year.

The meeting closed at 10.09 pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 11th.May 2006 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.