

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2009 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beinder, Esdale, Gulvin, Hill, Lewis, Wilmshurst and City Cllr J Anderson

**129/08-9. Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Beesty, Corfield & KCC Cllr Northey

**130/08-9. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items.

**131/08-9.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>. March 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**132/08-9 Disposal of business from the last meeting**

- a. Recreation Ground- Cllr Gulvin would keep the inspection folder until May when it would be taken over by Cllr Beinder. It was reported that the gate at the Bifron's Path entrance to the recreation ground had been removed from its hinges. This had been replaced but split pins would be purchased to make it more difficult to remove.

**Action; Cllr Esdale**

The council agreed to lend a litter picker to Mr Prior who had kindly cleared up the recreation ground after football matches on several occasions.

Cllrs Gulvin and Beinder had met the grass cutters from Kent Landscape Services during the previous week.

It was agreed to accept the tender from A J L Garden Services to fill and turf the area under the practise goal.

**Action; Clerk**

Four youths had gone on the trip to the skateboard park at Lyminge. It was agreed that the next step would be to measure out the area to ascertain how much space would be needed. Consultation with village residents would take place before any decision was made. Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllrs Beesty, Esdale & Wilmshurst who had supervised the visit.

**Action; Cllr Esdale**

- b. Affordable Housing – There had been no further communication from CCC or the Southern Housing Group.

It was reported that a petition objecting to the scheme had been circulated among the children at Bridge Primary School. This had been signed by adults and children and submitted to the city council's Planning Department. The Headteacher was unaware of this activity and would make further enquiries about it. The parish council unanimously deplored this manipulation of children.

- c. Speedwatch – Three councillors had joined the Lower Hardres Speedwatch team to see the system in operation. It was agreed to start a similar scheme in Bridge and to explore the possibility of hiring the equipment from Lower Hardres initially. Ian Biggs of Kent Police would be informed of this decision. It was agreed to purchase two signs, one in red saying 'Bridge Village Speedwatch Slow Down', the other a standard Speedwatch sign headed 'Bridge Village Speedwatch'.

**Action; Clerk**

It was also agreed to ask Richard Dixon of Kent Highways whether the new interactive speed sign on Bridge Hill counted the number of cars going over the speed limit.

**Action; Cllr Esdale**

**133/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Planning for Climate Change, 14<sup>th</sup>. March – Cllr Gulvin (Report Circulated)

Meeting with Rebecca Blackburn KCC's Emergency Planning Assistant

18<sup>th</sup>.March – Cllr Gulvin

It was agreed to form an Emergency Action Committee comprising Cllrs Gulvin, Beinder, Esdale & the Clerk to update emergency planning information.

Meeting with British Trust for Conservation Volunteers 25<sup>th</sup> March – Cllr Lewis (Report circulated)

Canterbury Branch of KALC 8<sup>th</sup> April – Cllr Wilmshurst

Cllr Wilmshurst reported that the free bus pass scheme for the over 60s was under financial strain, being £600,000 in arrears. Some restrictions on the scheme were likely. Actions were being taken to amalgamate the councils of Canterbury, Dover, Thanet and Shepway to create a large unitary authority. There would be substantial job losses.

Meeting with Amanda Sparkes of CCC 9<sup>th</sup> April – Cllr Esdale

The parish council had applied for a Capital Grant towards the cost of village hall renovations, estimated at £37,000. KCC had been asked to provide a grant of 50% from its funds for village halls. CCC confirmed that it would allocate £9,800 to this project provided that KCC agreed the grant. The remainder, and any shortfall should costs rise, would be met from parish funds. It was hoped to start work on the improvements in July 2010.

**134/08-8 Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposals were noted:

21 High Street

Re-pollard to previous cutting points and strip ivy to hedge height – 4 limes located on the boundary

17 Conyngham Lane, Bridge

Crown lift ash & remove overhanging limbs

Crown lift sycamore to 4m in rear garden

Fell cypress and two cherry trees in rear garden

Remove pittisporum on left hand corner of house

Remove lilac on left hand side of patio

**135/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. Clerk's Pay Award – It was agreed to implement the national pay award for the Clerk and that she should progress to the next point on the salary scale.
- b. Kentish Stour Countryside Project – Volunteers from KSCP would weed the long bed on the recreation ground where the hedge had been planted. The Manager and residents of Mansfield Court had kindly offered to arrange refreshments for the volunteers, for which the parish council agreed to pay. It was also agreed to purchase matting for the volunteers to put down to help prevent the re-growth of nettles.  
**Action; Cllr Beinder**
- c. Pavilion Repairs – Deferred to May meeting.
- d. Financial Reserves – It was agreed to allocate £250 to the wild flower project, to include the purchase of matting, bulbs etc for the recreation ground. A further sum of £500 was allocated from the reserves for future Green Initiatives. The remaining reserves were adopted as circulated to the council.
- e. Asset Register for Items under £250 in Value – It was agreed that Cllr Esdale and the Clerk would revise this register to take account of losses e.g. Christmas tree lights and present the revised register to the council for approval.  
**Action; Cllr Esdale & Clerk**
- f. Fly Tipping – The council was told about the lengthy and frustrating process that was on-going to have four fridges removed, which had been dumped on farmland close to the A2. It was agreed to write to the city council to point out the anomalies in the present system and also to suggest that a doorstep collection of larger items should be instituted on a regular basis to deter fly tipping, as was common in some parts of Europe.  
**Action; Clerk**
- g. Annual Parish Meeting – It was agreed to ask KCC Cllr Northey and CCC Cllr Anderson to address the Annual Parish Meeting. The main speakers would be Dr Sarah Anderson and Kate Harrison who would speak on the theme of reducing the village's carbon footprint. PC Paul Gibson would also be introduced to residents as our local policeman. Cllr Esdale would present the financial report. . Cllr Esdale would purchase the soft drinks and snacks and arrange hire of glasses. Cllr Edmonds would purchase wine locally.  
**Action; Cllrs Edmonds, Esdale & Clerk**

- h. Mill Centre - It was agreed to contribute £820.04 to the cost of the Mill Centre insurance. It was reported that KALC would include an item in 'Parish News' asking if any local parish had tried to purchase a building from a local authority at a nominal sum, giving a guarantee to sell it back at the same price if it was no longer needed. A similar item would be included in NALC publications. It was hoped that this might encourage CCC to agree to the parish council's proposal.

**136/08-9 Correspondence –** Noted

**137/08-09 Bank transfers;**

The council noted the transfer of £2,000 between Parish Council accounts

**138/08-9.**The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Barbara Beinder*	£189.55	Shrubs & plants for recreation ground £164.83 + £24.72 vat
BT~	£69.61	Telephone account 9/12/08 –9/3/09
Christobel N Seath	£819.41	Clerk's salary and office allowance for March 2009 + arrears of salary from 1.4.08 to 31.3.09 following national pay award - £184.08
KALC	£69.00	Clerk's Information Day 19 <sup>th</sup> . May (£60.00 + £9.00 vat)
KALC	£482.88	KALC Subscription 2009/10= £406.86 + £61.03 vat + £15.00 for Parish News
NALC	£13.50	Local Councils Review quarterly for 2009/10
SLCC	£105.00	Membership 2009-10
Mill Centre Management Committee	£820.04	Insurance contribution for the Mill Centre

\* Cheque issued in March as in budget for 2008/9 expenditure

~ Paid by direct debit

**139/08-9. Any other business:**

- a. Catering van – The parish council did not object to a proposal for a catering van to use the lay-by at the recreation ground each Thursday between 5.30pm and 7.30pm to sell take-away food. **Action; Clerk**
- b. Bridge Place Country Club – It was noted that variations in the licence terms had been applied for. The parish council did not object to this.
- c. Bridge in Bloom – Cllr Edmonds announced that the competition would go ahead again this year. **Action; Cllr Edmonds**
- d. Litter pick - Cllr Edmonds thanked the villagers and councillors who helped with the litter pick in the village on a wet Saturday at the end of March.
- e. Tree in memory of John Purchase – It was reported that a letter from the Liberal Democrats requesting this was still awaited.

The meeting closed at 9.41p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. May 2009 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.