

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th. April 2014 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman) Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst and Wortham
- 141/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Hill & KCC Cllr Michael Northey
- 142/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 143/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th. March 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 144/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- 145/13-14** **Report from Cllr Cook** The Executive were discussing the Draft Canterbury District Transport Plan, which would run alongside the Local District Plan up to 2031. There would be a 6 week consultation period. The proposed new A2 interchange would affect Bridge. The Local District Plan had been revised and there would be a further 6 week consultation period before it was presented to the Inspector. The Plan should be completed by mid-autumn. Cllr Cook had been following up complaints from High Street residents about the withdrawal of green refuse bags and was trying to arrange a site visit from CCC staff to consider how to help those affected by the new system.
- 146/13-14** **Report from KCC Cllr Northey-** (Via email) The government had given an extra £8.6 million to KCC to help repair road damage and further funding had been requested. 40 crews were employed mending potholes. Residents should continue to report pot-holes on the KCC website – www.kent.gov.uk/highways The emergency number was 03000 41 81 81. Flooding was on the KCC Cabinet agenda for May and various partners including the Environment Agency had been invited to discuss long term flood defence strategies. Foreign lorries now had to pay £10 each to enter the country, as a contribution to road repair. At present the Treasury was keeping the cash, but KCC continued to lobby for Kent receive some of the funding to repair roads damaged by these vehicles.
- 147/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground-** Cllr Ward thanked Cllr Hodges and her team of volunteers for their work on the recreation ground over several weeks. Only one person had attended the Bridge Village Sports Trust meeting. It was agreed to discuss the future of BVST in June after their AGM on 19th. May.
- b. **Neighbourhood Plan –** Prof Connor reported difficulties in getting replies from local businesses and landowners who had been invited to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan process. The next meeting was on 11th. April 2014 and there would be a further consultation event in the village hall on 3rd May. Adrian Verrall, CCC's Head of Planning Policy, would also meet with the Committee in May.
- c. **Nailbourne Pollution –** Cllr Atkinson reported that river levels were falling but the level of groundwater was preventing Southern Water from doing any work on the sewers. Upgrading of the pumping station was being undertaken. There would be a meeting with the Environment Agency to urge them to make Southern Water more pro-active. The river water was still polluted. Cllr Hodges thanked the volunteers who had helped to remove sandbags and fill the skips the previous Friday and Saturday. The

Council was pleased to see that Cllrs Atkinson and Moon had been recognised for their voluntary work during the floods by the Canterbury Times and Whitefriars.

- d. **Higham Lane Bus shelter.** Cllr Northey had arranged for a KHS engineer to submit a report on the technical merits of a proposal to move the bus shelter at Higham Lane. The report had been done following a desk study and did not recommend the move saying it would be expensive and no safer. At the request of a resident who wanted the move, it was agreed to defer a decision as to whether councillors supported this until the next parish council meeting.

148/13-14

Reports from representatives to Outside Bodies

Kent Police & Ambulance Event – 2nd April –Cllr Kate Wortham (report circulated via email)

South Canterbury Alliance – Cllr Atkinson

Cllr Atkinson reported that SCA were under the impression that the parish council were going to pay them £40 to affiliate. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had agreed to affiliate with ACRA not SCA and that councillors could not make decisions regarding funding that had not been agreed by the full council beforehand.

149/13-14

Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Local Government Boundary Commission response-** After some discussion it was agreed to write to the Boundary Commission commenting that the proposed new ward which included Bridge was inequitable and thus did not meet the aims of the Review. The ratio of electors was one of the worst in the District. It was geographically very large and internal links within the ward would be difficult. There could be problems if two members supporting different political parties were elected. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Revised Canterbury Local Plan-** Having read the Schedule of New Site Submission for the Canterbury Local Plan, the parish council agreed to withdraw its support for housing development in the area of Patricbourne Road, next to the Health Centre. The recent floods had made it obvious that any development on greenfield sites along the Nailbourne was undesirable because of the high risk of flooding and the need for the fields to act as water meadows to absorb floodwater. It was agreed to write to the City Council before the Plan went to the full Council on 24th April supporting the decision that the site was unsuitable for housing development. **Action; Clerk**
It was agreed that Cllrs Hodges and Corfield would report on the other proposals in the Local Plan. **Action; Cllrs Hodges & Corfield**
Cllr Cook would be available at the Neighbourhood Plan consultation on 3rd May to discuss the Canterbury Local Plan and Transport Plan with Bridge residents.
- c. **Mill Centre-** Mervyn Gulvin reported on the latest developments regarding the future of the Mill Centre. He asked the Parish Council to submit a request the City Council to take over the running of the Mill Centre on a long lease at a peppercorn rent. The Centre would be run on the same lines as the Village Hall. The Mill Centre Management Committee would be the partner of the Parish Council and be responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the Centre. A Business Plan had been circulated to Councillors. The sum of £250,000 was needed to carry out renovations to the Centre but this could be phased over some years. Mr Gulvin was confident that the money could be found. Councillors unanimously agreed to submit the request to the City Council. Cllr Hodges thanked Mr Gulvin for his work on the Mill Centre's future. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Annual Parish Meeting-** Councillors agreed the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and were asked to arrive at the hall at 6.45pm to help to prepare for the meeting. Cllr Corfield would arrange for the previous year's minutes and agendas to be printed and would set up the audiovisual equipment.
- e. **Youth Shelter seat-** Cllr Moon and Cllr Wilmshurst would remove the old youth shelter seat and replace it with the new one. **Action; Cllrs Moon & Wilmshurst**

150/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

151/13-14 The following receipt was noted;
Christmas trees donation; £20.00

152/13-14 Bank transfers

The Council noted the transfer of £3,000 between Parish Council accounts.

153/13–14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*BT	£97.24	Telephone account Jan Mar 2014 £83.35 + £13.89 vat
+Bourne to Garden	£470.00	Higham Lane bus shelter repair
Christobel Seath	£35.98	2 X Canon Printer cartridges £29.98 + £6.00 vat
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Salary and office allowance March 2014
Post Office Ltd	£143.89	PAYE & Employer NI Contribution March 2014
Society of Local Council Clerks	£129.00	Subscription for 2014/15
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£39.62	Petty cash
Cllr Sue Hodges	£37.56	Materials for wild flower project £33.21+ £4.35 vat
Kent Association of Local Councils	£522.67	Annual Subscription £435.56 + £87.11 vat
Cllr Sue Hodges	£64.93	Chairman's allowance Annual Parish Meeting £59.43 + key for pavilion £5.50
Cllr Alan Atkinson	£98.10	Travel claim April 2013 – April 2014 218 miles @ 0.45p per mile

* Paid by direct debit

+ Paid in 2013/14 Financial Year

154/13-14 Any Other Business

- a. **'Flood Heroes'** – Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Moon thanked the residents of Bridge who had successfully put forward their names to the Canterbury Times for awards following their work during the floods.
- b. **Chess** – Cllr Atkinson reported that Bridge Chess Team had recently won the Miller Cup, the premier chess trophy for East Kent, having come top of the local chess league.
- c. **Flood Volunteers** – Cllr Moon thanked all the helpers who had worked to remove the sand bags and to fill the skips at the end of the previous week. He also thanked Thanet Waste for very generously providing the skips free of charge.
- d. **Litter Pickers-** There had been a good turn out of volunteer litter pickers on 29th March. Cllr Ward thanked them for helping to improve the appearance of the village. The City Council had been reminded about the request for replacement bins at the recycling lay by and Bifrons Path.
- e. **Newsletter** – Cllr Corfield reported that the Newsletter would soon be ready for distribution. Councillors would be notified when they were available for collection.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 8th. May 2014 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.