

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 9 April 2015 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Hodges (Chairman), Hill, Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Moon, Wilmshurst, Ward and Wortham. Kent County Councillor, Michael Northey and Canterbury City Councillor, Simon Cook.

**142/14-15** Mr Joe Connor expressed his disapproval at the felling of a copper beech tree at Beechmount (at the junction of Conyngham Lane and High St). He asked if the Parish Council was aware that this was going to happen and what has been done since. Cllr Hill replied, quoting from an email received from the owner of the property and also from an arborist's report, commissioned by the owner. Although the arborist stated that the tree required an annual survey of its state of health, the owner confirmed that the tree had been felled with the approval of Jon Lambourne of Canterbury City Council, as there had been a recent case in Kent of the sudden and unexpected collapse of a similar tree in late 2014. Cllr Hill undertook to write to the owner of the property asking why he had not waited for the suggested annual review before felling the tree. Cllr Hill said that Bridge Parish Council had never been consulted about the loss of this tree.

**ACTION: Clerk to chase up response from Canterbury City Council to his recent enquiry. Cllr Hill to reply to the tree owner.**

**143/14-15** **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence, though Cllr Corfield arrived late (8.10 p.m.) as previously advised.

**144/14-15** **There were no** Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.

**145/14-15** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 March 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed and dated by the Chairman.

**146/14-15** **Matters arising:** The Clerk reported on the unaudited outturn figures for spending under all of the budget headings in the 2014-2015 financial year. These figures will be published to all councillors once they have been audited. **ACTION: Clerk**

**147/14-15** **Report by KCC Cllr Northey**

Cllr Northey recorded his thanks to all members of the Parish Council for having worked so hard and effectively this year and for having liaised so well with him over issues which required the attention of KCC.

He reported that a schedule of works had been drawn up for repairs to the Bridge Down stairs. Cllr Hodges was able to update the meeting on the issue, stating that a safety check was made on Tuesday 31 March 2015. Remedial work was carried out on Tuesday 7th April. The bottom steps were underpinned and the treads secured from

above. However no action has yet been taken on the wooden handrail which is deteriorating.

Cllr Hodges will write to Cllr Northey about the handrail problem. Further to discussion at the March 9 meeting of Bridge Parish Council, Cllr Hodges reported that there were three remaining marked pot holes in Higham Lane which had not been repaired and the road markings on Higham Lane have not yet been reinstated.

Cllr Wortham said she had passed the reference number and information on the blocked gullies in the High St by Union Road and the Post Office bus stop to Cllr Northey. The website still recorded they would be cleaned but no date is given and they remain blocked. The Clerk said he would give a reference number to Cllr Wortham for a recent report he had made on this issue. Cllr Wortham will forward this reference number to Councillor Northey also.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Hodges and Wortham

**148/14-15** **Report from PCSO Lisa Williams-deferred.** PCSO Williams did not attend the meeting and no report was forthcoming.

**149/14-15** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**  
**a** **Recreation Ground;**

Cllr Ward reported good use of the playground area over the holiday period with an attendant rise in litter. The moles seem to have been reactivated by the onset of spring. Cllr Hodges thanked volunteers who participated in the Recreation Ground working party on 21 March 2015. The Clerk reported that the new mowing contractor had already carried out two cuts of the grass. Discussion then ensued about charging for the use of the refurbished pavilion on the recreation ground. It was agreed that payment by users should always be to one source (BVST or Bridge Parish Council) with a partition of funds between these groups to take place before the end of the relevant financial year. For the current application for use of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground by Mr Nkereuwem a fee of £15 per week was proposed by Cllr Edmonds and unanimously agreed. A contract needs to be drawn up by the clerk for this letting. The clerk also needs to clarify the method of payment for facilities booked through the electronic scheme devised by Mark Esdale.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to BVST and Mr Esdale.**

**b. Nail Bourne**

Cllr Atkinson reported that the latest report on groundwater levels in the area indicated a fall of 1 metre in the last two weeks. Bridge Ford will remain closed for another month although the gaugeboards in the village have started to record a falling river level. There is no tankering or overpumping along the Nail bourne at present and very little prospect of flooding this spring. Ted Edwards (Canterbury City Engineer) has left his post. Cllr Atkinson recorded sincere thanks to him for his dedication and efficacy in the flooding episode of 2014. The Council supported Cllr Atkinson's suggestion that names should be forwarded to him of villagers who might be willing to participate in a research project being sponsored by King's College, London

regarding the fear of flooding. The researcher is Mr Sonny Patel. Posters about the project will be displayed on village noticeboards.

**Action: ALL- Names to Cllr Atkinson. Clerk: Noticeboards**

- c. **Neighbourhood Plan**  
Joe Connor reported on a poorly attended KALC organised Neighbourhood Planning Awareness Forum. (KALC=Kent Association of Local Councils). Bridge is well ahead of most councils for Neighbourhood Planning. The Bridge plan is heavily dependent on acceptance by relevant Inspectors of the Canterbury City Council Plan. This is likely to take some time.
- d. **Emergency Committee**  
Deferred to agenda item 9 (i)

**150/14-15 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies-None**

**151/14-15 Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **To discuss the provision of a bin to deal with dog mess on the water meadow near the ford.** Cllr Edmonds led the discussion which culminated in an agreed proposed location of a green coloured bin in close proximity to the water meadows. The approval of Kent Highways will be sought. Agreement will also be sought from Canterbury City Council to empty the bin.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- b. **To review the election timetable in preparation for May 7 elections.** The Clerk reminded the meeting of key dates in the current electoral cycle and pointed out that full details are available from him. The list of nominees for Bridge Parish Council is to be published after 4 p.m. on 10 April.
- c. **To discuss the nomination for a KALC award in 2016.** Cllr Hodges' suggestion that Cllr Hill be nominated for outstanding length and quality of service met with unanimous approval.
- d. The meeting noted the booking of 6 places for BPC members at an event to be held on 6 August by KALC in the Canterbury area for Parish Councillors in post after 7 May 2015
- e. **Annual Parish Meeting - 30 April 2015.** Cllr Hodges ran through the arrangements for the evening and asked for Councillors' assistance with food, drink, setting up and tidying away. Councillors are asked to bring tea towels. The hall will be open from 6.45 p.m. Cllr Corfield will ensure that a projector and microphone are in place and working.

**ACTION: All councillors and Cllr Corfield specifically**

- f. **Sale of the Mill Centre.** A 6 month moratorium on the sale of the building is now in place. The meeting agreed unanimously that there must be an energetic response to the issue once elections results are known. The matter will reappear on the agenda of the next meeting. Contact with the Mill Centre Committee will be made by the Clerk- by

letter -on behalf of the parish council to ensure a coordinated and speedy response to the proposed sale.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- g. **A BPC response to the rural enforcement questionnaire from Canterbury City Council**-Cllr Hodges led the meeting through the completion of the response form for Canterbury City Council. The Clerk will collate responses, circulate them to all members for final comments and ensure the form is returned by the deadline of 30 April.

**ACTION: Clerk and all councillors.**

- h. **A BPC response to the Concurrent Funding questionnaire from Canterbury City Council**-Cllr Hodges led the meeting through the completion of the response form for Canterbury City Council. The Clerk will collate responses, circulate them to all members for final comments and ensure the form is returned by the deadline of 7 May. Cllr Cook briefed the meeting on the likely outcome of the review he has chaired on Concurrent Funding. The recommendations of the review group will go to the CCC executive on 23 April. Full details of the recommendations will be published once they have been agreed though it is likely to lead to the ring fencing of CFF monies; spending over a 4 year period and the introduction of an tapered emergency fund for parishes to draw upon over the a limited period of time. The new 4 year scheme will apply from 2017-2018. The Council was unanimous on wishing to complete the CFF questionnaire as fully as possible to ensure that CCC knows all that there is to know about what is funded and what is carried out voluntarily in the village.

**ACTION: Clerk and all councillors.**

- i. **Cllr Atkinson** asked the Council **to ratify the draft emergency plan** as published prior to the meeting. This was agreed unanimously having been proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Wilmshurst. Cllr Hodges commended the hard work and attention to detail which had been displayed by those councillors who had drafted the plan. A few amendments to the plan were noted by Cllr Wortham which will be added to the final version.

**ACTION: Cllr Wortham**

**152/14-15** **Correspondence** (List circulated)

**153/14-15** **Bank transfer** A transfer between accounts of £1,000 was noted since the last meeting

**154/14-15** The following items were authorised for payment;

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Philip Wicker	£666.67	Salary and office allowance
Philip Wicker	£73.25	Parish computer software
Philip Wicker	£18.45	Travel expenses
Philip Wicker	£23.99	Printer Cartridge £19.99 + Vat of £4.00
Cllr Hodges	£39.35	Travel Expenses
Cllr Wortham	£53.55	Travel Expenses
Cllr Hodges	£19.99	First Aid Kit
Cllr Hodges	£46.77	Bark for Recreation Ground
Philip Wicker	£64.27	Petty cash
SLCC	£118	SLCC subs
KALC	£530.33	KALC subs (£441.94 + VAT of £88.39)

### **155/14-15 Any Other Business**

**Cllr Ward** reminded all present of the forthcoming village litter pick on **Saturday 18 April 2015 at 9.30 am**, with volunteers meeting at the junction of Conyngham Lane and High St. Volunteers should bring gloves and litterpickers. Bags will be provided, as will litterpickers and luminous vests for those who do not possess them.

**Cllr Moon** reminded the meeting that the clerk's working hours have been set provisionally for 12 weeks running from February 2, 2015. These will need to be confirmed by the Clerk in conjunction with the new Chair of the Parish Council after the Parish Council meeting on 14 May 2015.

**Cllr Hill** expressed his deep thanks to all fellow councillors on the occasion of his final meeting after over 35 years of service.

**Cllr Atkinson** will attend a KALC meeting on 21 April 2015 to discuss future working relationships with the new committee structure of Canterbury City Council.

**Cllr Hodges** asked for interested parties to contact the Clerk if they wished to be involved in a national survey of war memorials. There is a free training course in Maidstone to be held on Saturday 18 April. She also expressed her thanks to all councillors for the support she has received in her two years as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on **Thursday 14 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.**

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....