

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2006 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beetsy (at item 84), Beinder, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin, Hill and Lewis. Also Kent County Cllr M Northey & Canterbury City Cllr J Anderson

77. **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence.
78. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** Cllr Esdale declared an interest regarding agenda item 4b – Mill Centre.
79. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2006 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
80. Kent County Councillor Michael Northey gave details of a pilot project to provide free bus travel for students between the ages of 11 and 16, which it was hoped would be introduced in the Canterbury area in June 2007. Children who already qualified for free transport would have the option of continuing with that scheme or opting for the new scheme, whereby for a small administrative fee, they would be issued with a 'super ticket' entitling them to free travel on buses throughout Kent at any time. City Cllr Anderson reported that speeding in local villages was an increasing problem and he had spoken to the police about this. He confirmed that plans were in hand to direct traffic to the Coldharbour Lane exit of the A2 southbound rather than using the weight restricted triangle at the top of Town Hill. Other traffic calming measures agreed as priorities by Kent Highways and the Parish Council were still awaited.
81. **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground** – Cllr Esdale reported that the springy cat was getting worn and he had patched it. He was obtaining a quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for a roundabout to replace the cat and for one of the 'springers' to be moved to make room for it. Mole activity was bad at present. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
Cllr Beesty had produced a detailed report of the actions needed following the Rospa report. This highlighted priorities and suggested a programme of repairs. It was agreed that a monthly check would be carried out on the chains on the two junior swings, which were worn. Cllr Gulvin would approach Richard Walder regarding carpentry work needed to the bench and picnic bench. Future replacement of the wet pour may be needed. **Action; Cllrs Beesty & Gulvin**
Cllr Beinder reported that she had obtained the forms to apply for funding to create the wild flower meadow. She proposed to set up a small committee. Cllr Gulvin agreed to represent the parish council and BVST on the committee. It was agreed to check the insurance position of volunteers working to establish the wild flower meadow. **Action; Cllrs Beinder & Gulvin & Clerk**
Cllr Gulvin reported that Tyler Hill Football Club had decided not to rent the football pitch for the current season. Exiles at Bridge had also advised that they would not be using the cricket pitch next season. Cllr Gulvin would approach Barham Cricket Club to ask if they were interested. Negotiations on the size and location of the running track for the primary school were continuing. Mole activities could cause problems. It would be necessary for the Parish Council to find alternative clubs to use the recreation ground to keep up the level of income required to maintain it. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- b. **The Mill Centre**- It was reported that a new committee had been formed. Several parish councillors had visited the centre. Potentially this was a valuable asset for the village but it was agreed that major renovation was needed. It was decided to defer discussion until the January Parish Council meeting and that the minutes of the Mill Centre Committee Meeting of 4th December would be circulated to councillors. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Bifrons Light**. - It was reported that as this was a public right of way, Kent Highways Dept had referred the matter to the Public Rights of Way Dept in

Dover. PROW was unable to take action, as the branches were not preventing access to the path. They had referred the issue back to Kent Highways. It was decided that KAPC would be consulted as to what further action could be taken in the event of no further action from Kent Highways. **Action; Clerk**

82. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Cllrs Edmonds & Esdale submitted a written report on the Kent Area Policing Stakeholder meeting of 21st November

83. Matters for Discussion and Action

- a) **Recreation Ground Tree Work** – It was agreed to accept the quotation of £165.00 from Andrew Osborn for work to trees on the recreation ground. **Action; Clerk**
- b) **Annual Return for 2005/6** - Following errors by the accountants and the Audit Commission in the 2004/5 and 2005/6 annual returns, amended figures were initialled prior to re-submitting the return to the Audit Commission. **Action; -Clerk**
- c) **Rospa Safety Inspection** – It was agreed to engage Rospa to carry out the annual safety check of the play area on the recreation ground for 2007. **Action – Clerk**
- d) **KAPC Canterbury Area Committee meeting**- Cllr Edmonds announced that Cllr Julie Bennett had resigned as a parish councillor because of pressure of work. As she had been the parish council's representative on the area KAPC committee, it was necessary to nominate another councillor to attend the Canterbury Area Meeting of the KAPC on 10th January. It was agreed that Cllr Beinder would attend **Action; Cllr Beinder**.
It was also agreed to write and thank Cllr Bennett for her work as a councillor. **Action; Clerk**
- e) **Christmas trees** – Cllr Esdale informed the council that there had been 69 Christmas trees displayed in the High Street this year. He thanked the villagers and councillors who had helped to put up the trees. He announced that the trees would be taken down on Saturday 6th January. All volunteers to help with this would be most welcome and were asked to meet in Cllr Gulvin's yard at 9.00am. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- f) **Precept for 2007/8** – After discussion the precept for 2007/8 was agreed by the council and will be submitted to Canterbury City Council before the end of December. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

84. Sealing of Documents

The Youth Service Agreement 2006/7 between Canterbury City Council and Bridge Parish Council was signed by the Chairman, Cllr Edmonds.

The lease for use of the recreation ground between Bridge Junior Football Club and Bridge Parish Council for the 2006/7 season was signed.

85. Correspondence - Noted

86. Letter of authorisation to transfer £5,000 between the two accounts held by Bridge Parish Council was agreed – **Action; Clerk**

87. The following receipts were noted;
Christmas tree donations - £643.70

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

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£55.00	Hire of hall Oct, Nov & Dec for Street Runner - 5 sessions X £11
Christobel Seath	£403.18	Clerk's salary and office allowance–

		October 2006
Canterbury City Council Corporate Services	£758.02	Street Runner from 1/4/06-30/6/06 £645.12 + £112.90 vat
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£2,664.14	Arrears of insurance payments for village hall 2004/05/06
Bounty Pest Control	£305.50	Annual contract charge for mole control 1/12/06 to 30/11/07 £260.00 +£45.50 vat
Dr W G Le-Las	£1,185.90	Consultancy fee and expenses for preparation of case against planning application CA/06/01341/BEK
Christobel Seath (Clerk)	£41.68	Petty cash
Gillett & Johnston	£128.08	Servicing village hall clock for year to Nov 2007 £109.00+ £19.08 vat
Cllr Esdale	£679.75	Christmas tree expensed £575.14 + £104.61 vat

89. Any other business

- a. It was agreed to write to the parishes of Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne enclosing copies of Dr. Le-Las' letter to Canterbury City Council objecting to the Higham Park planning application and suggesting that they might like to consider allocating funding to fight any future appeal that might be lodged. Some disappointment was expressed over the lack of a robust initial response from the Planning Department of Canterbury City Council to prevent this undesirable housing development as it had led to considerable expenditure by the parish council. **Action; Clerk**
- b. It was agreed to write to Kent Highways Department to ask why no progress had been made in installing the bollards at the corner of Western Ave and the High St. although payment for this had been made a month previously. **Action; Clerk**
- c. Cllr Esdale reported that he had been approached by ITV who were making a series of programmes about village life in the Meridian Area. They were specifically seeking information about special events which could feature in a village profile. It was agreed that Cllr Esdale would pursue the possibility of ITV coverage for the Kent Association of History Societies Meeting in the village in 2007.
- d. No parish councillor was available to attend the Progressive Council Training Day to be organised by KAPC in Harrietsham in January 2007.
- e. The council congratulated Cllr Corfield on being awarded a BA honours degree in Fine Arts.

The meeting closed at 9.54 p.m.

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