

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th. December 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman), Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hill, Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst & CCC Cllr Cook
- 86/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from KCC Cllr Northey.
- 87/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying or written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items._
- 88/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14th. November 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 89/13-14** **Matters arising;** Cllr Atkinson had been unable to attend the Police Forum or the Emergency Planning Seminar earlier in the month because of ill health.
- 90/13-14** **Report from CCC Cllr Simon Cook;** Cllr Cook reported that the Chief Executive of the City Council had been very apologetic about the lack of response from various departments to the Parish Council's letters. It was hoped that this would be rectified by meetings in January. Cllr Cook had two food parcels from the Lady Mayoress' Charity to distribute to families in need before Christmas. Anyone who knew of someone who would benefit from these gifts was asked to contact Cllr Cook.
- 91/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground-** Cllr Wilmshurst had inspected the springers and said that they seemed to be working well. They had been mentioned in the safety inspection as potentially needing spare parts in the future. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllrs Wilmshurst and Moon for moving the picnic benches into the pavilion for the winter. She reported that Tony Hart (Tree surgeon) would carry out a safety inspection of the trees on the recreation ground. Mrs Pam Dobson had kindly agreed to identify the species in the hedge near the school.
Cllr Wilmshurst had attended a meeting of Bridge Village Sports Trust. It was intended that members would repair the showers and fill in the holes made in the walls by the punch bags. £16 per month would be paid to the Trust for the use of the punch bags in the pavilion. It was also intended to increase the amount paid to the Trust by the Keep Fit class. The garage would be cleared out the following Saturday and would be used to store gardening tools and snow clearing equipment in future.
 - b. **Neighbourhood Plan –** Draft objectives had been reviewed by a volunteer planning adviser from Planning Aid. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would revise the draft in line with her comments. It was planned to put the revised draft to Bridge residents for their views in the New Year.
 - c. **Mill Centre-** Martin Bovingdon and Ian Barnes of the City Council would visit the Mill Centre site on 17th December. The valuation placed on the site by the City Council put it beyond the means of the Mill Centre Management Committee to purchase. Negotiations were on-going.
 - d. **Nailbourne Pollution –** Cllr Atkinson reported that water levels were rising but were within anticipated seasonal limits. The work currently being undertaken by Southern Water should help alleviate future flooding. There would be serious disruption to the residents of Patnixbourne Rd & Riverside Close, potentially from 6th – 17th January. The road would have to be closed to traffic completely between Bridge High Street and Riverside Close at various times. The aim was to prevent future flooding problems. Cllr

Hodges thanked Cllr Atkinson for his continued work on this important matter.

- e. **Village Sign** – Cllr Hill reported that it was hoped that the new post would be ready in the New Year.

92/13-14 **Reports from Representatives to outside bodies**

Open Space Strategy Meeting 9th December – Cllr Edmonds
(Report circulated)

93/13-14 **Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposals were noted;

Patricbourne Road, Bridge

Crown lift two willows by 4m causing obstruction to the footpath, located by doctors' surgery (Exempt)

104 High Street, Bridge

Remove three dead cherry trees, one in the front garden & two in the rear (Exempt)

11 Dering Road, Bridge

Remove silver birch located in rear garden

94/13-14 **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Parish Councillor vacancy**: The City Council had advised that there would not be an election to fill the vacant post on the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed to advertise for interested candidates. Cllrs Hodges, Corfield and Ward would interview applicants in the New Year. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Alliance of Canterbury Residents Association**: It was agreed that Bridge Parish Council would formally join this group and pay the annual subscription of £20.00 **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Recreation Ground Maintenance Contract**: Having considered three quotations it was agreed to award the recreation ground maintenance contract for 2014/15 to AJ Longley, the present contractor. This was not the cheapest option but they had proved reliable and the cheaper quote was from a company considered less satisfactory when used in the past. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Snow Clearance Preparations**: Cllr Moon reported that he had held a meeting of volunteer snow clearers the previous week. He had ordered bags of salt, which would be stored in Bridge Down and at Brickfields Close. Later it was intended to move some of the salt to the pavilion garage. High visibility vests would be distributed to volunteers. At present the priority areas for snow clearance would be the High Street, followed by the route to the Health Centre. More volunteers were needed and depending on the response, side roads could also be treated. Any volunteers were asked to contact Cllr Moon. **Action; Cllr Moon**
- e. **Withdrawal of Green sacks**: Several residents had complained about the City Council's decision to withdraw green sacks from the refuse collection schedule. There was also strong objection to having to buy new green bins in their place. Cllr Cook said that the City Council had offered to assist anyone who found it hard to move green bins to the kerb. It was agreed to write to Cllr Cook to ask him to take up this matter with the City Council. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Meeting with Carol Donaldson**: It was agreed that the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership Volunteers would carry out half a days' work on the recreation ground and that 5 hawthorn plants and 104 plug wild flower plants would be purchased. The total cost would be £217 excluding delivery charges. The volunteers would carry out the work on the morning of 20th March 2014. Children from Bridge Primary School may be able to help with planting the wild flower plugs. **Action; Cllr Hodges**
- g. **Response to Boundary Commission**: It was noted that the Parish Council had submitted its views on new electoral wards to the Boundary Commission. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Corfield for his work on this.

- h. **Thanks;** Cllr Hodges said that recently many people had contributed their time to working for the good of the village and she asked for the following thanks to be noted. She thanked Mark Esdale, and his large band of volunteers for putting up the Christmas trees and those providing refreshments. She also thanked Vicky White, Mr & Mrs Oakey and Mr & Mrs Fawke for tending the village planters and the flowerbeds at the chicanes. Valerie Wicker and Selwyn Lewis were thanked for their tireless work in trying to keep the village free of litter throughout the year. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Janet Horsley, who was leaving the village after serving on the Village Hall Committee for more than 20 years.

Action; Clerk

Finally Cllr Hodges thanked Mike Burns- Stark who had recently resigned as a Parish Councillor.

- i. **Laurie Wakeham** It was agreed to write to congratulate Laurie Wakeham on completing 25 years as the owner of the butcher's shop in Bridge. **Action; Clerk**

95/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

96/13-14. Sealing of Documents

The Agreement between Bridge Football Club and Bridge Parish Council was signed
The Agreement between Bridge Junior Football Club and Bridge Parish Council was signed

97/13-14 The following receipts were noted;

Bridge Junior FC – fees for 2013-14 season - £100.00
Bridge FC fees for 2013-14 season - £250.00
Bridge Athletic Football Club – Half year's fees - £125.00

98/13–14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Clerk's salary & allowance for November 2013
Post Office Ltd	£126.20	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for November 2013
Bounty Pest Control	£324.48	Pest Management contract 1/12/13 – 30/11/14 £270.40 + £54.08 vat
KALC	£72.00	Dynamic Councillor Workshop fee 7 th . November 2013 £60.00 + £12.00 vat
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£20.99	Canon printer colour refill cartridge £17.49 + £3.50 vat
Mrs V White	£8.99	33 Wallflower plants for High Street planters
Gillett & Johnston (Croyden) Ltd	£189.60	Servicing village hall clock 1/1/4-31/12/14 £158.00 + £31.60 vat
Ewart Clough	£822.00	£686 for 85 X 5ft & 1 X 20ft tree + £137 vat
Mark Esdale	£430.79	£427.81 for lights + £2.48 for hooks + £71.80 vat
Jewsons	£168.00	25 bags of rock salt + Carriage £140 + £28 vat (S 137 payment)

99/13-14 Any Other Business

- a. **Conyngham Lane parking**; Cllr Ward reported that she had again had complaints about illegal and inconsiderate parking in Conyngham Lane. The Parish Council had already asked the City Council to step up parking patrols in this area, particularly at school drop off and pick up times. Cllr Cook said that the City Council were reluctant to install more yellow lines because there was a problem with enforcement.

- b. **Light at Zebra Crossing** –Cllr Hill reported that the light at the zebra crossing was not working. He would report it to Kent Highway Services **Action; Cllr Hill**
- c. **Meeting with Ian Brown, Planning Department** – It was agreed that Cllrs Hodges, Atkinson, Hill, Wilmshurst & the Clerk would meet to discuss various outstanding planning matters with the Head of Planning at the City Council in the New Year. **Action; Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 9th. January 2014 at **7.00 pm** in Bridge Village Hall.