

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Bennett, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin and Lewis

- 113. Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Councillor Edmonds
- 114. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 115.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 116. Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. Recreation ground**  
The continuing infestation of moles was discussed and councillors had carried out research into possible solutions. It was agreed that there was no immediate answer to this on-going problem. Expert opinion was that the situation should improve by April. It was agreed to continue to use Bounty Pest Control to treat the recreation ground regularly. It was also agreed that it was the responsibility of individual sports clubs to decide whether it was safe to play matches on the sports pitches.
- b. Flood Map** –Deferred to next meeting. It was agreed to contribute £25 to the Little Stour & Nailbourne River Management Group towards the administrative costs of running the group until 2009. **Action; Cllr Gulvin/Clerk**
- c. Patrixbourne Rd Flyover Noise** - It was reported that Inter Route had agreed to investigate the excessive noise from the A2 over-bridge at Patrixbourne Rd. but should action be required this would not take place until the next financial year. It was also reported that Canterbury City Council had taken over responsibility for the decision on angled parking on Western Ave from the Kent Highways Agency. However, they were unable to take this any further until the new financial year. It was agreed that city councillor John Anderson would look at the correspondence with a view to taking up the continued delays with the relevant department.  
**Action; Clerk**
- d. Redundant street signs** – Several signs requiring replacement or removal had been identified by Cllrs Esdale and Lewis. It was agreed to write to Canterbury City Council to ask for damaged signs to be replaced. **Action; Clerk**
- 117. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**  
There were no reports from outside bodies
- 118. Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**
- 51 High St Bridge  
Re-pollard lime tree to front of house. – No objection  
**Action; Clerk**
- 119. Matters for Discussion and Action**
- a. Parking on Dering Rd** – It was agreed not to support a proposal from Canterbury City Council to put double yellow lines on Dering Rd. It was felt that this would exacerbate parking problems in other areas of the village. It was also pointed out that emergency vehicles could now gain access via Aunt Betsy's Hill as overhanging vegetation had been cut back. **Action; Clerk**
- b. Annual Parish Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April** – It was agreed to ask Ms Renuka Chinnadurai, Headmistress of Bridge Primary School, to speak at the meeting. It

was also agreed that Mr Bill Oakey would be asked to speak about the Bridge Parish Plan.

**Action; Cllr Hill & Clerk**

- c. Areas of Councillors' Responsibilities** – Following the co-option of Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that she would represent the parish council at meetings of the Kent Association of Parish Councils. It was also decided that she would represent the council on the Art in Bridge Committee, together with Cllr Corfield. It was further agreed that Cllr Beesty would share representation on the Mill Centre Management Committee with Cllr Gulvin and that Cllr Beesty would also be put forward as the new liaison with Bridge Primary School. **Action; Clerk**
- d. Wild flower meadow on the recreation ground** – The parish council agreed to Cllr Beinder's proposal that the recreation ground should be developed as an environmentally sensitive area. It was resolved to consult environmental experts to seek advice on planting suitable areas with appropriate plants and installing bat boxes and nesting boxes. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- e. Action with Communities in Rural Kent** – It was agreed to renew the council's annual membership subscription of £35.00 for 2006/7 **Action; Clerk**
- f. Village of the Year Competition** - It was decided not to enter the competition this year. Instead the council would strive to improve the village using the Parish Plan and competition criteria with a view to submitting strong entries in all categories in 2007 or 2008.
- g. Bridge Parish Plan – Action Plan** – The council agreed to extract those elements of the Action Plan which relate to the parish council and circulate them to councillors so that they could indicate what priority each action should be given. These responses would be collated and a list of priorities agreed, to be taken forward by the council. It was also agreed to circulate a copy of the Village Design Statement which had recently been produced by Chartham. **Action; Cllr Esdale, Clerk**
- h. Affordable Housing** – Members of the Affordable Housing Committee had met with Jennifer Shaw of ACRK and Craig Savage, Senior Planning Officer, Canterbury City Council and considered fourteen possible locations within the village for an affordable housing development of up to eight houses. It was agreed that the Brickfields site in Mill Lane most closely met the requirements of an exception site and was the most appropriate for a local needs housing scheme. The council therefore agreed to ask Canterbury City Council to release a portion of Brickfields for this purpose. It was agreed to defer consideration of the criteria on which the affordable housing would be allocated until a later date. It was also agreed to try to ascertain how many applicants with close connections to Bridge were currently on the Canterbury City Council housing waiting list. **Action; Clerk**
- i. Recreation ground trees** – John Lambourne, Canterbury City Council tree officer, had visited the recreation ground at the council's invitation, to consider the request from Bridge Tennis Club to remove trees that were apparently damaging the playing surface of the tennis courts. He recommended the removal one sycamore and one damaged alder tree from the tennis court area and their replacement in a slightly different location with an ash and a hawthorn. In addition, the remaining alder trees could be reduced by 15-20%. The parish council approved these recommendations, which would be paid for by Bridge Tennis Club, and agreed to ask the City Council for permission for the work to be carried out. **Action; Clerk**
- j. Bridge Youth Group** – It was reported that neither of the current volunteer helpers is willing to continue with the youth group, the last session of which, under the present funding arrangements, will be on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006. It was therefore agreed to seek volunteers willing to assist the City Council youth workers on youth group evenings. (At least two per session are required) It was also agreed to seek volunteers willing to act as members of the committee. A dead line was set of 27<sup>th</sup> February and an open meeting will take place on that date in the Village Hall for potential volunteers to come forward. If there was an insufficient response, the council agreed to abandon the youth project. If sufficient volunteers were found, it was agreed to suspend youth group meetings possibly until September, or until such time as the necessary police checks etc.

have been completed. Meanwhile the new constitution for the youth group was approved by the council, in the hope that sufficient volunteers could be found to continue the project. Councillors would also pursue various options to try and identify potential volunteers. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

- k. Kent Messenger Group Big Quiz** – It was agreed to enter a team from Bridge Parish Council to take part in the Big Quiz in aid of the Lady Mayoress of Canterbury’s Charity Appeal on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2006. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

**120. Correspondence Noted**

- 121.** Letter of authorisation to transfer £1,000 between the two bank accounts held by Bridge Parish Council was agreed. **Action; Clerk**

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Mickle Print	£215.00	Balance of printing costs for Parish Plan
Christobel N Seath	£385.31	Clerk’s salary and office expenses – December
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£60.00	Hire of Hall for Street Runner Jan, Feb, Mar 2006 = 12 hrs @ £5 per hour
BVHMC	£15.00	Hire of hall for Parish Council meetings Jan, Feb Mar 2006 @ £5 per session
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£35.00	Membership from April 2006 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2007

**123. Any other business**

- a. Public Rights of Way Meeting** – It was agreed that Cllrs Edmonds & Esdale should attend the PROW/Parish Council Liaison Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March if possible.
- b. Lighting for Bifrons Path** – The council considered a request for an additional light to be placed by the recreation ground. However, the council decided that it could not support this proposal, which it felt was unnecessary and would increase light pollution.
- c. Dog fouling** – Dog fouling was again reported to be a problem particularly in the High Street and Western Ave. It was agreed to obtain more stickers for lamp posts in the hope of reminding dog owners of their responsibilities and the penalties for this anti-social behaviour. **Action- Clerk**

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>.March 2006 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. The meeting closed at 10.12 pm.