

**Draft Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th February 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin, Lewis and Wilmshurst also County Cllr M Northey and PCSO Sue Radcliffe

- 109/07-8. Apologies for absence**; There were apologies for absence from Cllr Hill
- 110/07-8. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items**. There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.
- 111/07-8.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 112/07-8** Cllr Northey informed the Parish Council that the KCC budget would be set on 19th February and a 3.9% increase in Council Tax was likely. He reported on recent visits he had made to two local charities; Kent Kids Miles of Smiles in Canterbury and The Ark, Dover, both of which were doing valuable work in the community.
- 113/07-8** Following a complaint from a litter collection volunteer, it was agreed to try to eradicate fly tipping and littering at the recycling point which was becoming an increasing problem. As this area was within the parish of Bekesbourne with Patribourne it was agreed to approach that parish to ask them to support Bridge's request to the city council for anti-fly tipping measures and for the installation of a lidded bin at the recycling point. **Action; Clerk**
- 114/07-8. Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. Recreation ground** – Cllr Lewis reported that he had cut back vegetation from the footpath to the school. He had also trimmed part of the hedge by the Health Centre and the remainder had been completed by the Centre's gardener. Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllr Lewis for his work on the recreation ground. The new signs indicating that dogs, golf and cycling were not permitted on the recreation ground would be erected before the next parish council meeting
Action; Cllrs Gulvin & Esdale
- b. Higham Park**- Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllr Gulvin for agreeing to attend the Planning Inquiry. It was now anticipated that the Inquiry would last for three days, starting on 19th February. Posters advertising the Inquiry had been removed from the fences of two properties near Higham Park. They would be replaced. Cllr Gulvin had created a poster to demonstrate the scale of the proposed villas in relation to Higham Park in cross section. This would be shown to the Planning Inquiry. Highland Court Cricket Club had provided evidence of the number of local people attending cricket training and matches. Concerns were expressed as to the cost of the Planning Consultants fees should costs not be awarded against the developer.
Action :Cllr Gulvin& Clerk
- c. 24 High Street** – Richard Honey had agreed that his fees could be paid in early April at the beginning of the next financial year. **Action; Clerk**
- d. The Mill Centre** – A copy of the lease for the Centre had been sent to KALC with an enquiry as to the legality of the very large rent increase. This had been referred to NALC's legal advisers for advice.

115/07-8 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

BVST – Cllr Gulvin reported that Canterbury City Football Club were considering plans to enlarge the pavilion to add new showers and extend the changing facilities. This was a long-term aim dependent on funding.

Rural Area Members Panel – Cllr Edmonds had circulated a written report.

Writing Better Bids Workshop – Cllr Edmonds reported that this was run by Canterbury City Councils External Funding Team, which was willing to look at draft bids for funding if given two weeks before any deadline.

Speedwatch – Cllr Esdale reported on the new procedures for Speedwatch. A minimum of two trained participants in each parish were needed to run the scheme and it was agreed that volunteers would be sought before the next training course was held. The equipment would cost about £2,500 but there was a possibility of parishes sharing or renting equipment from other parishes. It was suggested that councillors might visit Chartham which was running a successful scheme.

116/07-8 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

84 High Street, Bridge,

Remove 12' flowering cherry and a small pear tree also 12' high from rear garden

67 High Street, Bridge

Cut down a dead cherry tree in garden

24 Conyngham Lane

Reduce height of contorted willow in front garden by 40%

To note Tree Preservation Order No4,2007 was made on the wellingtonia tree, New Close , Bridge on 18th. January 2008

117/07-8 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Bifrons Path** – It had been established that Bifrons Path was too narrow to allow the emergency services access to dwellings if vehicles were parked in the lane. It was therefore agreed that letters would be sent to all residents of the area requesting that they did not park their vehicles there.

Action; Clerk

- b. **Wealden Wheels Presentation** – It was decided not to send a representative to this presentation.

- c. **Wincheap Development Consultation** – It was decided to write to Canterbury City Council pointing out that the present proposals were unlikely to relieve congestion in the area. There was concern about the plan to surround the new road with 1,300 houses. This would create further congestion as well as being an unsuitable environment for new housing. There was also concern about the height of the buildings being proposed, which were significantly taller than the rest of Canterbury's buildings. Traffic management plans were vague.

Action; Clerk

- d. **Welcome Packs for New Residents** – Having considered the examples of Welcome Packs from other parishes supplied by ACRK, it was agreed that the current packs being distributed by the parish council were satisfactory. It was therefore agreed not to seek funding from ACRK to improve them.

Action; Clerk

- e. **Village hall** – Cllr Gulvin briefed the parish council on the plans for renovating the ground floor of the village hall. Additional storage space would be created, the kitchen would be improved and disabled toilets that met the disabled status requirements installed. Planning permission had been applied for and it was hoped that work would begin in the summer. Funding had been requested and the cost was estimated to be about £31,000. **Action; Cllrs Gulvin & Esdale**

- f. **Cllr Selwyn Lewis** would stand in as Chairman during the absence of Cllr Edmonds later this month.

- g. **Youth Shelter** – A grant of £5,000 had been awarded by KCC towards the cost of the Youth Shelter. The council agreed to make up the additional £1,745 to pay for the shelter and solar lighting. This would be found from reserves if necessary. It was agreed to place the order for the shelter. **Action; Clerk**

- h. **Cycle Route to Dover** – It was agreed to write to Kent Highways Authority suggesting that the cycle route to Dover should go through Bridge rather than along the A2. This would be a much safer alternative to the present route 16.

Action ; Clerk

118/07-8 Sealing of Documents

The Kent Parish Council Website Agreement was signed. **Action; Clerk**

119/07-8 Correspondence - Noted

120/07-8 Transfer – The transfer of £1,000 between Parish Council accounts was noted

121/07-8 The following receipts were noted;

Bridge Junior Football Club Fees 2007/8 season £50.00
Christmas tree donations - £20.00
VAT reimbursement Oct – Dec 2007 - £474.10

122/07-8.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*CPRE	£15.00	Fee for 'Tomorrow's Kent Climate Change' Conference 1 st Feb 08
Christobel N Seath	£610.89	Clerk's Salary and office allowance – January 2008
KCC Commercial Services	£753.12	Grounds Maintenance 2 nd half yearly invoice £640.95 + £112.17 vat
Bridge Village Hall Management Cttee	£16.50	Parish Council meetings Jan-Mar 2008 – 3 meetings @ £5.50
BVHMC	£66.00	Street Runner meetings Jan – Mar 2008 –6 meetings @ £11.00

*already authorised because conference before Feb PC meeting

123/07-8. Any other business;

- a. Cllr Lewis drew the council's attention to the garages being re-erected in Dering Rd.
- b. Cllr Lewis noted that fly tipping was becoming a problem again at the junction of the A2 sliproad with Bekesbourne Rd.
- c. It was reported that there was activity taking place at 45 High St and it was hoped that the owner was planning to repair the building.
- d. There had been storm damage to trees in Mill Lane and SERCO had so far failed to take action to remove the tree debris.
- e. An open bin for litter collection had not yet been received from the city council.
- f. Cllr Beinder reported that she had investigated a different supplier for the restoration of old street names project. It was agreed that she would obtain further information and quotations for embossed signs. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
- g. A Parish Council newsletter would be produced for the Spring. Several suggestions for items to be included were made. Cllr Corfield would compile a draft for the next meeting. **Action; Cllr Corfield**
- h. Cllr Esdale reported on the Pfizer volunteer project and it was agreed to apply for assistance with refurbishing the Mill Centre. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- i. No councillor was available to attend the Planning Information Day being organised by KALC on 15th. March

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 13th. March 2008 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.