

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Atkinson, Cook, Corfield, Edmonds, Hodges, Oakey, Ward and Wilmshurst, KCC Cllr Northey & PCSOs Dodwell and Ward-Davies (to item 6e)

- 115/11-12**      **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence.
- 116/11-12.**      **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items
- 117/11/-12**      The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup>. January 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 118/11-12**      **Report from KCC Cllr Northey** – KCC had frozen the council tax for next year and taken a £14.5 million windfall grant from government. Half of this would be allocated to contingencies. There were presently delays to Members' Highway Fund disbursements because of the large number of schemes to be dealt with. Cllr Northey commented on the temporary barriers and speed limit signs which the Highways Agency had installed at the A2 slip road. Once Kent Highways had reinstated the signs they would erect 20 verge marker posts along the road and the temporary barriers would be removed. A Kent Highways Action Plan had been inaugurated to try to prevent HGVs from getting lost in villages. A new website would indicate restrictions on local roads and their suitability for HGVs. Residents were invited to send their comments to Andrew Westwood at [andrew.westwood@kent.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.westwood@kent.gov.uk) Tel 01622 222 729
- 119/11-12**      **Report from Cllr Cook** – Canterbury City Council had frozen the council tax for next year and accepted government grant to keep the tax flat. The budget would be confirmed on 16<sup>th</sup>. February. CCC was undertaking a Scrutiny Review of Concurrent Function Funding. This would be a technical review into the application process and comments had been sought from parish councils. Cllr Cook had attended a meeting with city council officials about alternatives to the Mill Centre. (See item 120e below.)
- 120/11-12**      **Disposal of Business from last Meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground-** Cllr Ward thanked Cllr Wilmshurst for painting the sand bag store. Replacement seats had arrived for the youth shelter and were currently being stored in the sand bag store awaiting a decision about their installation. Cllr Hodges had cleared the paths and pruned the shrubs on the recreation ground. It had been decided to accept the offer of a walnut tree. Cllr Wilmshurst and Tony Walder had planted the tree and Mr Walder was thanked for his gift. The tree stumps round the sandbag store had been ground out. Cllr Hill thanked Cllrs Hodges and Wilmshurst for their work on the recreation ground.
  - b. **Affordable Housing** – The city council's list of successful applicants would be sent to the parish council and Southern Housing within the next few days. The parish council's only involvement would be to verify claims of close connections by the applicants. Cllr Hill asked for suggestions for items to be placed in the time capsule. The school had already suggested some items. It was likely that the capsule would be buried after the new residents had moved in to the housing and it was suggested they might like to contribute small items such as photographs as the first residents of the properties.
  - c. **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations-** See item 8a below
  - d. **Methodist Chapel** – No further information at present.

- e. Mill Centre – Cllr Cook reported on a meeting held that morning between himself, Cllr Hill and the Clerk and Suzy Wakeham, Head of Community Development and Outdoor Leisure and David Kemp, Principal Valuer at CCC to discuss the need to find premises for Bridge's youth organisations following the decision by the city council to sell the Mill Centre. There was much discussion by the parish council of two possible options to retain the youth groups within the village. One option was to build a new scout and guide centre in the grounds of Bridge Primary School. This would require the agreement of the school and KCC and would need funding. The use of the building would be shared between the school and youth groups. The advantage of this plan would be that it would take a relatively short time to implement if agreed. It was hoped that the city council could be persuaded to agree to extend the lease of the Mill Centre until a new building had been completed, perhaps within 2 years.

The second option was for a new community centre for the village incorporating facilities for the scouts and guides. It had been reported by David Kemp that Cantley Estates were in exploratory talks with the city council for a large housing development in Bridge. It was suggested that provision of a new Community Centre could be a *quid pro quo* for agreeing the development. It was thought that the time scale for such a solution could be several years and the outcome was uncertain. The parish council rejected this option.

It was pointed out that if the city council had decided to sell the Mill Centre to realise its financial assets, the Mill Centre Management Committee had already expressed an interest in buying the Centre but such an option had not been offered to the Committee.

It was agreed that Cllr Cook would put the option of a new youth centre at the primary school to Bridge's youth organisations. If agreed this would be taken forward by the scouts and guides. Cllr Cook would also approach KCC about the possibility of a shared building with the school. Cllr Cook would inform the city council of the parish council's preferred scheme. **Action; Cllr Cook**

- f. Bus shelter seat – No further progress
- g. Walkers are Welcome – Cllr Atkinson reported that the scheme would cost around £40 per year and would be good publicity and bring visitors to the village. Canterbury Ramblers had agreed to assist with setting up the scheme, which would require a petition of 25 signatures and a launch event. The local landlords had agreed to display stickers for the scheme. The parish council agreed to implement the scheme. Cllr Atkinson would make further enquiries and report back to the next parish council meeting. **Action; Cllr Atkinson**
- h. Annual Parish Meeting – Ann Millington, Deputy Chief Executive of Kent Fire & Rescue Service had agreed to speak at the meeting and would bring two colleagues from the Service with her. It was agreed to ask representatives from the Bridge/St Andre Twinning Association, the Diamond Jubilee Committee and the Mill Centre to give short reports.

**Action; Cllr Oakey, Cllr Atkinson & Clerk**

121/11-12

**Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposal was noted;  
Oast Cottage, Great Pett Farm, Bridge,  
Remove 3 honey locust trees to benefit remaining tree (Notice originally given 4.2.10 and now expired)

122/11-12.

**Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Diamond Jubilee Funding-** Cllr Atkinson told the council that it was proposed to give a commemorative coin to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee to every child up to the age of 16 living within the parish of Bridge. It was planned to distribute order forms for the coins round the

village, probably with the next Parish Council Newsletter. Cllr Oakey was confident that Friends of Bridge would contribute £1,000 to the cost of the celebration. He confirmed that a bank account had been set up and that cheques would be made payable to Bridge Queen's Diamond Jubilee Committee. There would be two cheque signatories from that committee. The council unanimously agreed to give the committee a loan of £1,000 for the period of eighteen months at zero rate of interest. The Clerk would confirm this in writing to the Treasurer, Cllr Oakey, who would countersign the agreement letter on behalf of the committee. Cllr Hill thanked Cllrs Oakey and Atkinson for their work on the celebrations.

**Action ; Cllr Oakey, Cllr Atkinson & Clerk**

- b. **Recreation ground rent increase** – The increase in rent for the recreation ground from £450 to £550 per annum with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012, proposed by Savills, Agents for Cantley Estates, was agreed.  
**Action; Clerk**
- c. **Wet pour quotation** – It was agreed that Cllrs Corfield and Wilmshurst would meet with Steve Briant, who had provided a quotation for the repair of the wet pour, to discuss what the repair would involve. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Dog fouling-** The parish council deplored the increase of dog fouling in the village and urged all residents to use the litter bins provided to dispose of dog waste. It was pointed out by Cllr Oakey that action could be taken against dog owners if residents were prepared to make witness statements when they saw dog fouling taking place.
- e. **John Ash-** It was agreed to write a letter of condolence to the family of John Ash, former Chairman of Bekesbourne Parish Council and a resident of Bridge, who had died a few days previously. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Recreation Ground Working Party** – Cllr Hodges would organise a working party on the recreation ground on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 9.30am. Cllr Ward agreed to postpone the litter pick she was organising until Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March because several councillors were unavailable on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Volunteers should meet at the post office at 9.30 am. Residents of Bridge would be very welcome to help at both these events.  
**Action Cllrs Hodges & Ward**
- g. **Recreation Ground Committee** – It was agreed that Cllr Hodges, as Co-ordinator for the Wild Flower Project, should join the Recreation Ground Committee.

123/11-12 **Correspondence List** – Noted

124/11-12 **Receipts**

The following receipt was noted;  
HM Customs & Revenue VAT reimbursement - £228.95

125/11-12 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BVHMC	£36.00	Hire of hall for Parish Council from Jan – March @ £12.0 per session
Aon Ltd	£38.21	Fidelity Guarantee increase to £80,000
Hart Lee	£60.00	Grinding out 6 tree stumps close to sandbag store on recreation ground
Christobel Seath - Clerk	£643.37	Clerk's salary and office allowance for January 2012
Post Office Ltd.	£90.34	Employer PAYE & NI Contributions for January 2012
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£35.00	Annual subscription 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013
Monster Play Systems Ltd	£210.00	Replacement seats & paint for youth shelter £175 + £35 vat
Cllr Terry Wilmshurst	£19.03	Masonry paint for sandbag store £15.86 + £3.17 vat
Campaign to Protect Rural England	£29.00	Annual subscription 2012

**126/11-12      Any other business**

- a. A2 slip road – Cllr Hill had thanked the Kentish Gazette for their publicity about the dangerous A2 slip road. It was agreed to write to the Highways Agency to thank them for taking action to prevent further accidents at the A2 slip road, which had so far proved to be effective. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Twinning** – Cllr Hill objected to the word 'honoured' in the twinning agreement drawn up for signature. He reported that the alternative wording he had proposed had been rejected by Bridge Twinning Committee.
- c. **Neighbourhood Plan** – It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, which comprised councillors and representatives of other organisations. It was agreed to inform the city council that Bridge had formed a Neighbourhood Plan Committee. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Ice on Pavements** – There had been complaints from residents about ice on the pavements. Specifically complaints had been received that the post office /pharmacy had not cleared ice from the front of the shop making the area dangerous. It was pointed out that shop owners were obliged to keep the area in front of their shops clear. Cllr Oakey volunteered to get salt for the pavements. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the pharmacy asking them to fulfil their obligations. In future the Emergency Planning Committee would include a contingency plan for volunteers to clear ice from Bridge pavements in their emergency plans. It was agreed to re-visit this matter at the September parish council meeting so that plans could be made in good time. **Action; Cllr Oakey & Clerk**

The meeting closed at 10.03 pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. March 2012 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.