

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th February 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hill, (Chairman), Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hodges, Oakey, Moon and Ward and CCC Cllr Cook (from item 10d)
- 122/12-13** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Wilmshurst
- 123/12-13** There were no Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 124/12-13** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 10th January 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 125/12-13** **Matters arising;**
There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 10th January 2013
- 126/12-13** **Report from CCC Cllr Simon Cook;**
Cllr Cook reported that the Budget Committee would meet on 21st February. The Draft Local Plan would be delayed until early May because of the need to liaise with Kent County Council over transport issues. Suzy Wakeham had been made the CCC's lead officer in the Mill Centre negotiations. Cllr Cook would follow up on the results of the meeting of 28th January reported below.
- 127/12-13** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a.** **Recreation Ground** –Cllrs Hill and Moon were thanked for installing the Jubilee plaque.Cllr Hodges reported that the door to the sandbag store had been damaged by vandals. The store was still secure. Cllr Moon would assess the damage and the Clerk would get additional quotations for its repair since the original contractor had been unable to undertake the work.
Action : Cllr Moon & Clerk
- b.** **Neighbourhood Plan** – Prof Connor was drafting a plan for comment by Committee members.
- c.** **Mill Centre-** The Chairman of the Mill Centre Committee and representatives of the youth organisations had met with Cllr John Gilbey, Martin Bovington and Suzi Wakeham on 28th January to discuss the future of the Centre. A decision on the future of the site would be taken within the next few days.
- 128/12-13** **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**
Rural Area Member Panel 14th January 2013 – Cllr Hodges
Report circulated
- 129/12-13** **Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation area**
The following proposals were noted;
Kisterli, Patricxbourne Rd, Bridge CT4 5BN
Remove a Leylandii from the front boundary
Reduce an ash tree, in the rear garden, to previous cutting points reducing outer growth and thinning inner growth by no more than 25% and reshape
Pilgrims Cottage, Meadow Close, Bridge CT4 5AT
Crown reduce Indian bean tree in rear garden by 25%
- 130/12-13** **Matters for Discussion and Action**
- a.** **Proposal for Commemorative tree**– Councillors decided that any decision on planting trees on the recreation ground must originate from the parish council. As a general rule, trees to commemorate individuals would not be permitted unless in

very exceptional circumstances. For this reason the council decided not to accept the offer of a commemorative tree in memory of Thea Carr. **Action; Clerk**

- b. **Pollution in the Nailbourne** – Cllr Atkinson would represent the parish council at the meeting of the Little Stour and Nailbourne River Management Group the following Saturday. He would report that the parish council was appalled by the way sewage was being pumped into the Nailbourne. This had happened in two out of the past three years. The sewer needed replacing. Cllr Atkinson reported that some work had been done to the sewer but that the pipe work was not watertight everywhere and as a result, ground water was seeping into the sewer. The pumping station was not working. Cllr Oakey reported that only 1 kilometre of pipe had been sealed since 2001. Julian Brazier MP would be meeting the Chairman of Southern Water to discuss concerns over the present situation.

Action; Cllr Atkinson

- c. **Health Centre Proposals** – Councillors who had attended the public meeting on 11th. February reported that staff of Bridge Health Centre had assured patients that there would be no diminution of services following the proposed merger with the London Road Surgery. Some concern was expressed by councillors over the possible increase in traffic along Patribourne Road.

- d. **New Parking Proposals** – The Council did not support the proposal to put double yellow lines at the corner of Brewery Lane and Bridgeford Way. However the proposal to put double yellow lines between the chicanes on Town Hill was strongly supported because of the danger posed by parents who parked in this area when collecting children from Bridge School. These comments would be passed to the Joint Transportation Committee for consideration at its meeting on 19th February. Cllr Oakey, as a representative to the Committee, would put the Parish Council's view.

Action; Cllr Oakey & Clerk

- e. **Replacement windows for the village hall-** Councillors had seen the three quotations obtained for replacing the windows of the village hall with double glazed wood framed windows. Councillors supported the choice of contractor made by Mr Gulvin.

Action; Clerk

- f. **Recreation ground fence planting-** After a vote it was agreed that Cllr Hodges should purchase pyracantha shrubs to plant against the fence between Riverside Close and the recreation ground.

Action Cllr Hodges

- g. **Snow Clearing arrangements** – Cllr Oakey reported that the new team of volunteers had managed to keep the pavements of Bridge clear of snow and ice over the weekend of 19/20th January. There were now 14 volunteers and around £200 had been spent on equipment and rock salt. Bridge Down residents had organised their own snow clearance but it was hoped that they would join the team Cllr Oakey would leaflet Bridge Down with details. Cllr Hodges reported that the steps from Bridge Hill to Bridge Down had not been cleared. More volunteers would be welcome. Cllr Hill thanked Cllrs Oakey and Moon for their hard work and for organising the new system

Action; Cllr Oakey.

- h. **Annual village litter pick** – Cllr Ward would organise a village litter pick on Saturday 16th. March. Volunteers should meet at Bridge Post office at 9.30am. New high visibility vests were needed and the Council accepted a quotation from Workwear Express for 24 new vests overprinted with 'Bridge Volunteer'. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Ward and her team of volunteers for their efforts to keep the village free from litter.

Action; Cllr Ward & Clerk

- i. **Youth Shelter floor** – The hole which had developed in the youth shelter floor would need to be repaired by installing a concrete floor. The Clerk would obtain two quotations for this work.

Action; Clerk

- j. **Rural Area Member Panel Grants** – Cllr Atkinson drew the council's attention to the RAMP fund and thought that some organisations in the village might benefit from such funds if they were made aware of them. The Clerk reported that the Farmer's Market Committee intended to submit a request for funding for market equipment from RAMP.

- k. **Purchase of new bench for High Street** – It was decided not to use Parish Council funds to buy an additional bench to be placed next door to the former

bakery in the High Street. The Council would have no objection to the bench being purchased by Mr Gulvin.

131/12-13 Correspondence – Noted

132/12-13 Bank transfers:

The council noted the transfer of £3,500 between Parish Council accounts

133/12-13. The following receipts were noted;
HMRC VAT repayment - £333.69

134/12–13 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 | £581.07 | Clerk's salary and allowances for January 2013 |
| Post Office Ltd | £172.51 | PAYE & Employer NI Contribution January 2013 |
| John E Hill | £28.36 | Chairman's allowance expenses |
| Bridge Village Hall Management Committee | £36.00 | Hire of hall for Parish Council X 3 Jan/Feb/Mar 2013 @ £12.00 |
| Robert Moon | £45.74 | Rock salt and snow shovel £38.12 + £7.62 vat |
| Terry Wilmshurst | £50.00 | Reimbursement for payment to D Pilcher for tree work on recreation ground. |
| Green Construction Ltd | £117.15 | Pavilion guttering repairs £97.63 + £19.52 vat |
| Mervyn Gulvin | £88.20 | Photocopying costs 2012 - £73.50 + £14.70 vat |
| Bill Oakey | £152.37 | 4 snow shovels, 1 broom and 20 X 10kgs salt for snow clearing team £126.97 + £25.40 vat |
| Hart Lee | £475.00 | Tree surgery to 2 sycamore trees & willow on recreation ground |

135/12-13 Any Other Business

a Newsletter – Cllr Corfield asked for contributions for the Spring Newsletter by 10th March

b. Time of Future Meetings – Councillors decided not to hold parish council meetings at the earlier time of 7.00pm in future.

c. Village News – Cllr Hill pointed out that yet again there had been no items of village news for Bridge in the Kentish Gazette that day. He would approach the Gazette about the lack of information about events in Bridge.

Action; Cllr Hill

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 14th. March 2013 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.