

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th. February 2014 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman) Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hill, Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst & Wortham
- 114/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from CCC Cllr Simon Cook.
- 115/13-14** Cllr Hodges warmly welcomed Cllr Kate Wortham who had been co-opted to the Parish Council
- 116/13-14** Cllr Ward declared an interest on agenda item 9 as the owner of the property for which an application for tree work had been submitted.
- 117/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th. January 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 118/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- 119/13-14** **Report from Cllr Cook (via email)** Cllr Cook expressed his admiration for all the work that the Parish Council and volunteers had done to help with the flooding in Bridge. He also said that the preliminary South East Local Enterprise Partnership submission had gone to government. This contained some notes about road improvements amongst many other things and that the final slip road at the A2 / A28 (allowing southbound A2 traffic to drive into Canterbury) was now on the timetable. Work should start in 2017/18 to be completed in 2018/19.
- 120/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground –** Cllr Ward re-iterated that the recreation ground had been temporarily closed on the advice of the Environment Agency and would remain closed until the Parish Council was advised that it was safe to re-open it. The EA had rejected a suggestion that a fence should be erected along the path from Riverside Close to the school gate.
Some pieces of wooden struts had been left by the pavilion and would need to be removed once the ground was re-opened.
 - b. **Neighbourhood Plan –** There would be a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee the following evening. Plans were in preparation for the parking survey and meetings with local businessmen. A green space strategy was being developed and flood control issues would need to be incorporated into the Plan.
 - c. **Mill Centre-** There had been no response from Mr Bursnell of CCC to the application for the Mill Centre to be added to the Parish Council's list of assets of community value.
 - d. **Nailbourne Pollution –** Cllr Atkinson reported that Cllr Cook and Julian Brazier MP had visited the area. Cllr Gilbey had also been invited to come and see the situation. Ground water had already reached the highest measurement on the scale and was unlikely to reduce until the summer. This would continue to affect the levels in Church Meadow and the Nailbourne. Southern Water had tried to line the sewer but the present inundation could cause further problems. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Atkinson for his continued work on the problems of the flooding.
 - e. **Village Sign –** Cllr Hill reported that the sign had now been put together into one piece and would be erected when there was dry weather.
 - f. **Withdrawal of green sack collection service;** The Clerk reported that she had been unsuccessful in getting the City Council to re-consider its decision on green sack withdrawal or visit those affected. Cllr Cook had been asked to continue to pursue this with the City Council.
 - g. **Bridge Down Steps –** Cllr Hodges reported that surveyors from KHS had been seen taking measurements at the steps. No indication had been received as to when replacement work might begin.
 - h. **Higham Lane bus shelter** It was agreed that repair work on the bus shelter should begin once a suitable contractor had been found.

121/13-14 Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

24 Conyngham Lane, Bridge

Fell a silver birch located at the bottom of the garden

Highland Court Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Bridge

Reduce row of conifers at side of Gomez complex by 50%

Green at corner of Patricbourne Rd & Riverside Close

Reduce crown of willow to previous cutting points

104 High Street, Bridge

Cut back ash in rear garden to previous cutting points & remove ivy

Sunnyside, 2 Dering Rd, Bridge

Remove 8 leylandii in rear garden, originally a hedge but now outgrown the space.

Walnut House, Conyngham Lane, Bridge

Remove dead tree & a holly tree. Reduce crown of 2 wild cherries by 25%

The Vicarage, 23 High Street Bridge

Fell Scott's pine in turning area – roots damaging tarmac. Fell a leaning sycamore. Fell a propped up cedar/yew. Fell twin stemmed cherry with split bark

122/13-14 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

KALC Canterbury Branch, 15th. January – Cllr Hodges – Report Circulated

Meeting of Campaign for Democratic Change in Canterbury, 5th Feb – Cllr Hill

Cllr Corfield told the meeting that he would be involved in promoting the referendum on the need to reform the current City Council system of governance as a private individual and not as a representative of the Parish Council.

123/13-14 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Flood Situation Update-** Cllr Moon updated the Council on the present flood situation in Bridge. Pipes had been installed that day to avoid the 'pinch point at the bus shelter and water was now flowing over the road via two 8' pipes and one 6' pipe. No action would be taken that would increase flood risk further down stream. Cllr Moon paid tribute to the many Bridge volunteers who had helped with filling and deploying sandbags, making tea for the emergency services and helping vulnerable residents. All the professional emergency services had been working tirelessly. It was agreed that there should be a first aid course organised for councillors and volunteers after the current emergency had ended. It was also suggested that the sand bag store be removed to a location that would be easier to access than the recreation ground. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Moon for his continued outstanding work in helping those affected by the flooding and assisting with co-ordinating the emergency services.
- b. **Barton Court Grammar School-** It was decided not to express any view on the possible re-location of Barton Court Grammar School from Canterbury to Herne Bay.
- c. **Tree Work on the Recreation Ground** It was decided to ask Tony Hart to identify the most urgent work needed on the recreation ground and for that work to be carried out as soon as the ground was re-opened. A further body of work would then be carried out in the next Financial Year when more funding was available.

Action; Clerk

- d. **Councillors' Responsibilities** The list of Councillors' Responsibilities was revised.
- e. **Annual Parish Meeting** It was agreed to ask Guy Gardener, the Emergency Flood Co-ordinator from CCC, to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- f. **Response from Canterbury Police to Dog Attack Complaint** The disappointing response from Inspector Mark Arnold was discussed. It was agreed to pursue the idea of re-instating the Police Forum which would include a representative of each parish council and representatives of KHS at regular liaison meetings. A reply would be sent to the Police requesting this and Action with Rural Communities in Kent would also be asked to support it. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Lap top for the Parish Office** It was agreed to purchase a lap top computer for the Parish Office. Mark Esdale was asked to suggest a suitable model.
- h. **Village Litter pick** Cllr Ward announced that there would be a Spring village litter pick on Saturday 29th March at 9.30. Volunteers should meet at the Post Office. If the weather was bad the event would be postponed until 5th April. All volunteers would be very welcome. **Action; Cllr Ward**
- i. **'Kent Men of the Trees'Trees in the Village Competition** It was decided not to take part in this

competition.

- j. **Recreation Ground Working Party** Cllr Hodges announced that there would not be a working party this Spring because of the current situation. Work with the Kent Stour Countryside Partnership Volunteers would be postponed until September as would work with the primary school children, who would do their planting in September.

Action; Cllr Hodges

124/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

125/13-14 Bank transfers

The Council noted the transfer of £2,000 between Parish Council accounts.

126/13-14 The following receipts were noted;

HMRC Vat reimbursement - £404.09

Christmas tree donations - £165.00

127/13-14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
KALC	£72.00	Resilience & Reassurance Training Course 8.2.14 – Cllr Moon £60 + £12.00 vat (Invoice awaited)
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Clerk's salary & allowance for January 2014
Post Office Ltd	£214.65	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for January 2014
A Howe & Sons	£120.00	Painting village sign £100.00 + £20 vat
Cllr Hodges	£92.15	Chairman's allowance £68.19+ vat £4.46= £73.65 Ink Cartridge & copy paper £15.83 + £2.67 vat = £18.50
Cllr Hill	£10.55	Travel expenses 12 miles @ 45p = £5.40 Bolts for village sign £5.15
Mark Esdale	£168.00	Website maintenance for 2012- 2013 & 2013 –14 £140 +£28 vat

128/13-14 Any Other Business

- a. **Expenses** – Cllr Edmonds proposed that the Clerk should be compensated for the additional hours she had worked during the current flooding. Cllr Moon should also be paid petrol expenses for the travel he had undertaken on flood alleviation duties.

Action; Clerk

- b. **KALC Community Award Scheme** – Cllr Hodges announced that Cllr Moon had been nominated for this award because of his outstanding work in helping with the flood emergency in Bridge. Cllr Alan Atkinson had also been nominated because of the work he had undertaken over the previous three years with the Environment Agency and Southern Water to improve the Nailbourne sewage system.
- c. **Press Enquiries** – Cllr Hodges reminded councillors that all enquiries for comment from the press (with the exception of the present flooding emergency) should be addressed to the Chairman in the first instance.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 13th. March 2014 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.